JANUARY 1932

The American Home

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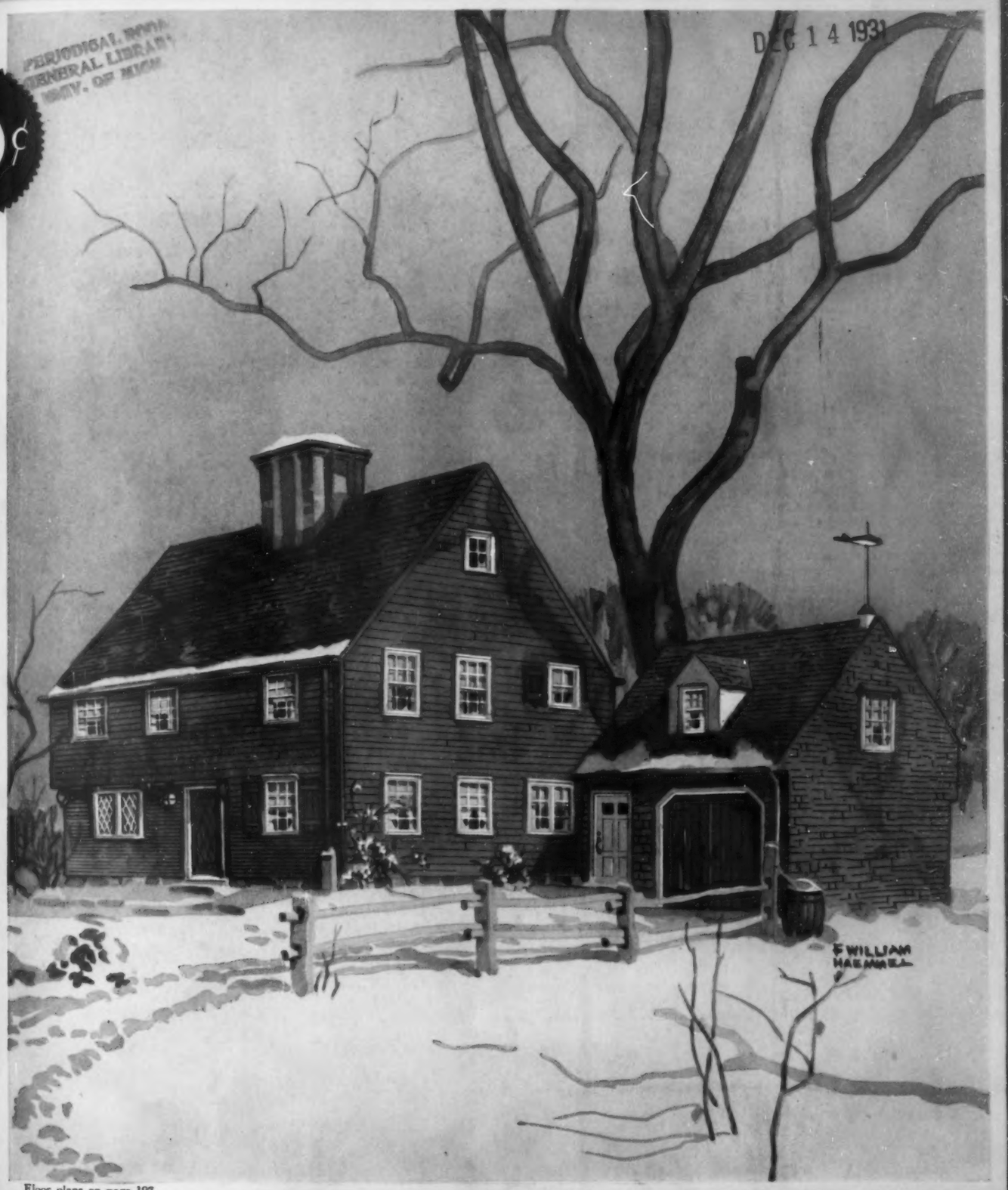

Floor plans on page 197

Bargains in Building

A Colonial Home That Went West

Make Your Home Beautiful

LEARN HOW TO PLAN, BUILD, FINANCE, DECORATE, FURNISH AND REPAIR

These 10 Foremost Experts Will Tell You

Easily Quickly Economically

FROM CELLAR TO ATTIC
INDOORS—OUTDOORS
THE HOUSE—GARDEN
GARAGE
WINTER — SUMMER

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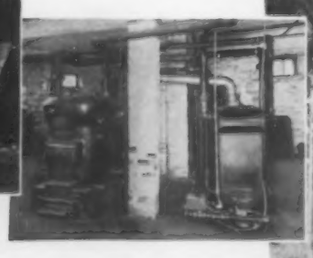

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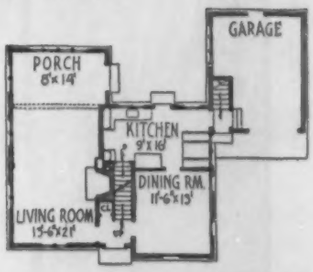
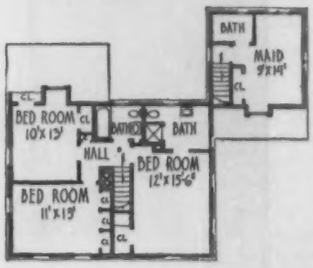
On the cover of this issue of the magazine is shown, in winter dress, the quaint Early Colonial house that appears, in black and white, in the little sketch at the right. The plans of the house are below. F. William Haemmel was the architect. The cubical contents is 27,577 cubic feet and the probable cost of building, at 40 cents a cubic foot, is $11,030

The American Home

Contents for January, 1932





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REGINALD T. TOWNSEND
Editor

LEONARD BARRON
Horticultural Editor

FREDERICK KLARMAN
Art Editor

HENRY HUMPHREY
Managing Editor

Plans

WHAT does it matter if, as Bobby Burns tells us,

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men,
Gang aft a-gley."

What fun we have all had in the laying of them! What great expectations, what glorious anticipations have kept us athrill.

No Soviet engineers, poring over their elaborate charts for the next Five-Year Plan, have half the concentrated, rapturous attention of two young people looking at the plans for their first home.

And no small part of the delights of planning lies in the quick turns and unexpected byways which those a-gleying plans may take. Of course when things are cut and dried in advance, and one may assume the rôle of a dictator in assuring the completion of a project to the last doorstop, a lot of the glow of anticipation has faded.

THE AMERICAN HOME, however, is not edited for those whose unlimited means give them dictatorial powers. It is written month by month with the hopes and dreams and plans of everyday Americans very much in mind. And as it aids and gives point to your best laid schemes, so it serves as guide, philosopher, and friend to a planning America.

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H. Rossiter Snyder

The freshly driven snows and sharp, biting days of January merely accentuate the coziness and warmth within this little New England cottage

New England Winter

A Colonial Home *that went West*

by ELIZABETH ECKEL

THIS is not a story of a house that "up and moved" halfway across the country from New York to Oklahoma—nothing so material or mechanical as that. It is the story of a home that was transplanted. Lovely old Colonial furniture and household articles that had served and beautified the homes of other generations were given a new shelter in a strange land. The shelter itself was not strange. The new home was as Early American as any Dutch Colonial that nestles in the green hills of New York State or Long Island. Even the planting, under the tender care of the house mistress contributed to the illusion of a bit of New Netherlands set down in the plains of the Southwest.

She who worked this wonder is Mrs. Clark Ranney, and her Dutch Colonial home is in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ranney is one of those lucky people with an artistic temperament who can make pictures with flowers and furniture just as well as with paints and canvas. Now that I am far away from the Oklahoma house I can still see in my mind's eye the cool gray-green serenity of her living room with its whale-oil lamps, and pink roses in Stiegel glass, the charm and hospitality of the dining room with old pewter platters against the pine paneling, with its daisy-filled brass kettle reflected in the mellow surface of what was once grandmother's kitchen table; the simplicity of the hall where petunias, pink and purple, cascade from an old pewter salt-box on the wall.

Almost every piece of furniture in the house has a story connected with it, some of trial and tribulation, while others are tender tales of youth and age. The dining room is especially rich in association pieces, for the huge braided rug and much of the furniture belonged to Mrs. Ranney's grandmother. The draperies at the windows have a curious history for they are of homespun fabric which once performed the lowly duty of covering old straw mattresses, but its texture was so unique that it was rescued, washed and sunned until it had attained the degree of cleanliness

The charming front door, true to its Dutch origin, is divided into two sections that a vista of trees and sky may be brought into the house

Although situated in Oklahoma this charming Dutch Colonial, built of stone, clapboards, and shingles, preserves the feeling of the early days of New Netherlands

The bedrooms are gay and cheerful and quaintly furnished. The chintzy wallpaper makes an appropriate background for the sturdy four-poster with its old-fashioned patchwork quilt. Several rare old hooked rugs also are shown in this room

compatible with a Dutch Colonial house, then given a place of honor at the windows. The dog andirons have a family history which specially endears them to their owners. Mrs. Ranney's mother recalls them first in the home of a great-uncle before they came to her, and Mrs. Ranney remembers them well in the home of her childhood.

If you look at them carefully in the photograph you may see that the head of one dog is encircled with an iron ring, a substantial halo, sign and symbol of some secret superiority in the eyes of the very young. The other doggie, totally devoid of any distinguishing halo tangible or intangible, was the cause of frequent tears on Mrs. Ranney's part, because when they played that childish game of "claiming things" where he who shouts first or loudest becomes the indisputable owner, an older cousin would suddenly start the game by exclaiming: "This is my dog with the ring, and *that's* yours!" leaving Mrs. Ranney, of course, with the dreary prospect of never possessing the more desirable canine. But time heals many wounds, and the day came when the little girl drove home with her mother in the family phaëton, cradling both dogs lovingly in her arms all the long way—both dogs to be her own at last and, in time, to become cherished possessions in her own home.

To dwell at such length on the description of the dining room betrays the fact, I am afraid, that it is my favorite, and I feel sure it is the most satisfying room to the owner since it is nearest to being an expression of her ideals in home making. Our photograph, of course, does not show the charm of its coloring, but I wish you could see the corner where the little maple butterfly table stands on the day when the blue tea set is out, or when Mrs. Ranney wishes to make another picture and changes the

The most unique room in the house is the "Cabin," the playroom built in the basement, where informality prevails and makes it a very popular place. Here Sunday night suppers are served in old-time tavern fashion with tin dishes and a red and white checked tablecloth and napkins

The furnishings in the dining room particularly have intimate associations with the owner's childhood days. Special sentiment is attached to the dog andirons which caused much childish woe and laughter in bygone days because one dog possessed a halo-like ring and one did not

tea set for a lovely pewter bowl full of yellow gourds or bright orange marigolds which seems a perfect combination.

But the living room has its satisfactions, too, many of which are shown in the picture. Less primitive in its furnishings, it is quite as homelike as the dining room since its green walls and woodwork form a congenial background for quaint prints and silhouettes, old samplers, shelves of ancient books, and a modern Victrola cunningly housed in the melodeon by the window. The simple background and plain homespun rug form a pleasant setting for the charming chintz in saffron tones which forms the curtains and is used to cover some of the furniture.

The living room is a little less primitive in its furnishings than the dining room but quite as homelike. Walls and woodwork painted a soft green form a lovely background for the old samplers, quaint prints, silhouettes, and shelves of colorful books

The evolution of home lighting might be traced in the Ranneys' house, for there are examples of many primitive forms of light holders, from a rush light and an early Betty lamp to ancient metal and brass sconces and candlesticks, and lanterns of pierced tin which cast interesting shadows on walls and ceilings when their lights are lit.

DESCENDING the basement stairs we embark on another, more elemental adventure into the primitive. Here are log walls, a rough stone fireplace, built-in bunks, animal pelts, Indian rugs, firearms, cowboy hats and many amusing incongruities which prove this to be the playroom. In fact, this is one of those charmingly informal places which every home should have, and which many of our modern clean and coal-less basements do have. But how many of them have also a kitchenette at hand, and serve hospitable Sunday suppers on a real (*Continued on page 234*)

Bargains *in* Building

A look at the future

by HENRY HUMPHREY

THERE are three factors of the construction industry to be considered in this article and three periods of time which interest those who are prospective home builders. The first factor is price, the second is financing, the third is public confidence. The three periods of time are: the present, and the immediate future, which will be our jumping-off place for a look into the third period, the future. We have recently returned from a trip through the Middle West gathering data on which to base this article and a subsequent one, on financing, to appear in the February issue.

The price of a home depends on the costs of building materials, labor, and real estate. All of these have reached the lowest points they have hit in years. Opportunity is knocking at many doors and those who heed the call are rewarded with rare bargains in building.

The F. W. Dodge Corporation, a well-known statistical organization, gave us the following analysis of building materials costs (1926 prices are given the index figure 100):

	Brick	Lumber	All Building Materials
1926 (average)	100.0	100.0	100.0
1929 (average)	91.1	94.5	97.1
September, 1931	79.8	65.5	74.9

The cost of brick has not been so low since December, 1918; lumber is at the lowest point since March, 1917, and all building materials, considered as a group, have reached the average of December, 1916.

Labor costs, it is an open secret, are likewise well below the 1929 level. The 1929 union wage scales are still, theoretically, in operation, but in these distressing times building mechanics are secretly flouting the union scale and are working for what they can get. We cannot quote you definite figures for the decline in labor costs; they differ with the locality, and while the secret is "open" it is still not accepted by the unions. But the fact remains that the cost of labor, like the cost of materials, has hit a new low.

TOTAL construction costs, covering both materials prices and labor, are given in an accompanying table. These costs are based on information returned to us from 2,000 questionnaires which we sent in October to architects, real estate brokers, contractors, and financing institutions. The information contained in this table will, we believe, prove interesting. We cannot guarantee its accuracy since it is based on cubic foot costs and they are always approximations. However, we believe the extent of our research work justifies the information contained in the table, and we hope the figures will serve as useful guides in estimating the decline in building costs in your locality. There was no other way to get the general picture we were seeking to delineate than by the use of cubic foot figures.

DECREASED BUILDING COSTS

As told in the accompanying article, THE AMERICAN HOME sent out 2,000 questionnaires in October to architects, real estate brokers, contractors, and financing institutions all over the country asking for information about current costs of small house building. At the head of each questionnaire we printed the picture and plans of a house that cost $17,000 to build in the New York City area in September, 1929. We invited estimates of the cost of building this house in other localities in September, 1929, and in September, 1931. The replies were divided into fourteen national districts, as shown on the map above, and the results averaged as follows:

District	*1929*	*1931*	*Decline*
1	$15,200	$13,000	14%
2	16,500	14,000	15
3	15,600	12,800	18
4	15,400	12,700	18
5	14,700	11,600	21
6	14,900	11,920	20
7	15,000	12,600	16
8	15,400	12,600	18
9	14,800	12,800	13
10	14,600	12,200	17
11a	15,200	12,200	20
11b	14,900	11,500	22
12	13,200	11,000	16
13a	14,500	12,600	13
13b	15,200	12,200	20
14	15,700	12,100	23
Average	$15,000	$12,400	17%

Realty values have probably suffered a general decline of about 35% since 1929. As there is no real estate exchange similar to a stock exchange it is impossible to determine the exact amount of the decline, but the figure quoted was furnished us in October by a leader in the United States real estate world who said he thought the quotation would be quite as convincing without the use of his name. There have been some sales of distressed property considerably below this figure but at the same time there have been other sales above the 1929 price.

Financing, which is next in our list after price, is considered difficult. Although bankers say there is plenty of mortgage money the public, accustomed to the easy money policies of 1928 and before, don't find financing easy. One well-known Middle Western financier estimated that in past years "most financing in the small construction field has been actually 65% to 90% on first mortgages, made to look like 50% to 60% by over-appraisal."

The building public and the financing institutions are paying for those "90%" mortgages now. The foreclosures have been too numerous to enumerate again and the bank failures have been proportionally large. The conservative policies which the banks are now following may seem stringent to the man looking for a mortgage, but they are not without their value in insuring the quality of new real estate investments. We believe that in some cases they are as unfair as the previous inflated appraisals and loans, but possibly two wrongs will make a right. At any rate, until some new financing methods, which we shall discuss in an article in the February issue, get into operation and supersede the time-worn practices now employed, the building public and the building industry cannot look for much in the way of easier financing. The great mail order houses are, of course, exceptions.

The third consideration in the present building situation is public confidence. People are hesitant about building. Partly this is due to the fact that the timidity of certain bankers has infected them. Some bankers do not look favorably on real estate investments. They want liquidity. They consider stocks more liquid than real estate, although they are willing to acknowledge the security of the latter. Harry S. Kissell, president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, speaking at a recent convention in Detroit, pointed out that whereas 90 major stocks had declined in value 72.3 % the decline in value of real estate had been much less than that. If, Mr. Kissel said, a $10,000 house were offered for sale at $2,500, a depreciation of 75%, it would find many takers. In other words, if real estate were as insecure as stocks it would be as liquid. But long-time security rather than temporary liquidity may be considered by some a more desirable virtue in an investment.

People are timid, too, about foreclosures. They do not often realize that foreclosures and distress sales usually come from an unsound foundation of finance. With the present conservative lending policies such eventualities are much less likely to happen.

Thirdly, and probably chiefly, people are afraid to build because they do not know what the future holds for them. Instead of putting their dollars to work they are putting them in savings accounts where billions of dollars are accumulating. America is wealthy enough to carry out an extensive building program and it is to be hoped that President Hoover's Home Loan Plan, or a development of it, will finally slay the dragon of depression.

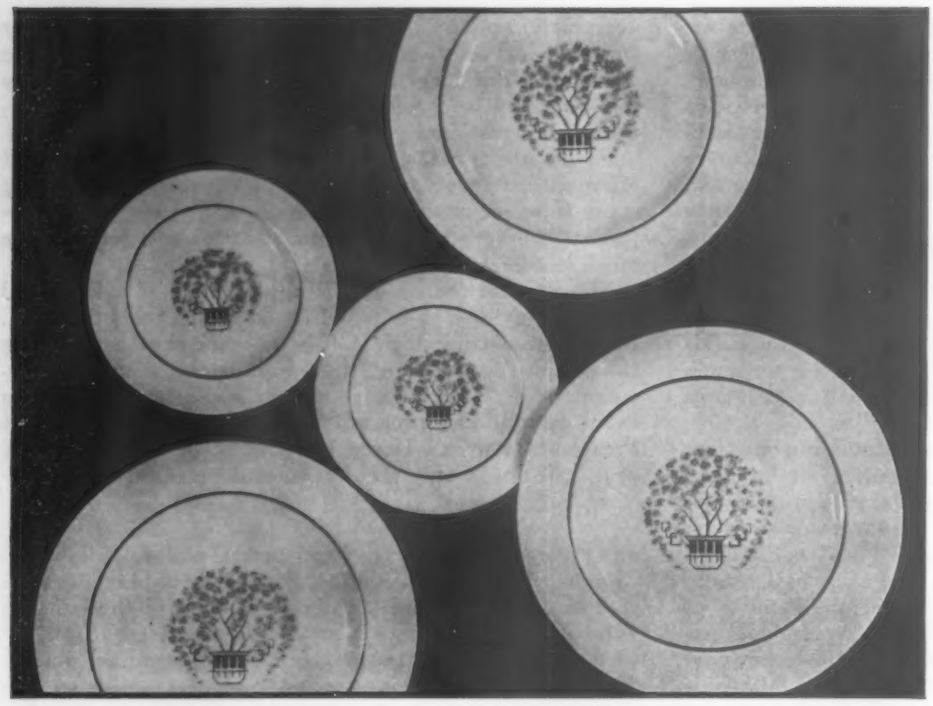
THAT concludes our brief and general picture of the present. For the immediate future we do not expect much change. Prices probably will not go lower in the building industry. If there were a further decline it could not fail to do incalculable harm to this great economic structure. The building industry is of major importance to the welfare of America. Not only does it do, in normal times, $10,000,000,000 worth of business annually, but it encourages automotive transportation and the development of public utilities. Apparently America has weathered the depression and it is unreasonable to expect that the second largest industry will be further injured by declining prices.

Labor costs probably will not be reduced either. Building mechanics have become only part-time workers and are working now for a bare living.

Realty values may sag a little further before they stabilize, but they are so certain to rise to new levels after the depression is past that any slight change in the immediate future may be discounted. (*Continued on page 232*)

The person who builds a house as attractive and substantial as this one at the bargain prices that prevail now will look back on his investment in future years with great satisfaction. The residence of Mr. R. K. Collins, San Marino, Cal. Breo Freeman, architect. Floor plans at the end of this article

The Mott Studios



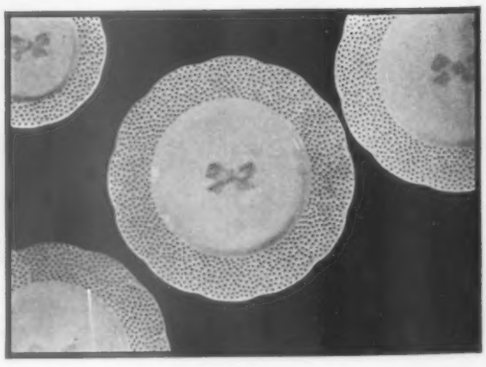
Ming pattern (above) with its Chinese motif on a warm ivory ground and border of blue with panels of birds in rose, blue, green, and orange is used on Lenox ware—one of the finest chinas made in America. (Ovington Bros.)

A striking design in rose and black on a white background with a narrow band of gold. The designer, Suzanne Lalique, daughter of the famous artist in glass, has transmitted the poetry and grace of the Orient and, with a deft twist of her imagination, given the design a distinctly modern air. (Theodore Haviland)

A profusion of gay flowers found in the countryside of England is used as the decoration for the centers of this Crown Ducal service (left) in the "Harlequin" pattern. To add to the charm, each size plate has a different motif

Below: A delightful pink bow in the middle of a white plate with the rim stippled in black is a naïve pattern, but one of great distinction. The pink bow is reminiscent of a Louis XVI bowknot. Designed by Suzanne Lalique. We are showing the pattern here for the first time in any magazine. (Theodore Haviland)

"Fleur de Lis" (right) is a most interesting earthenware service brought out by Spode and is very reasonably priced. The well-defined conventional pattern, underglaze, comes in either blue or rose on an ivory body



Decorated Queensware has the typical raised design on the saucer. The decorative motif is made up of flowers that might have been gathered from an English garden. (Josiah Wedgwood & Sons. Ltd.)

For the lover of ships and the sea Leigh has produced "The Clipper," a unique service for Early American or seashore settings. The black yachts and black band make a striking contrast on the ivory background. (R. H. Macy & Co.)

The charm of CHINA

PATTERNS FOR EVERY PURSE

"Housetops" from Leigh, our American potter, is one of the newest designs on the now famous square shape. The reds and browns of the roofs and various colored houses contrast with the green foliage—all on the umbertone colored body which is so well adapted to modern color arrangements. (R. H. Macy & Co.)

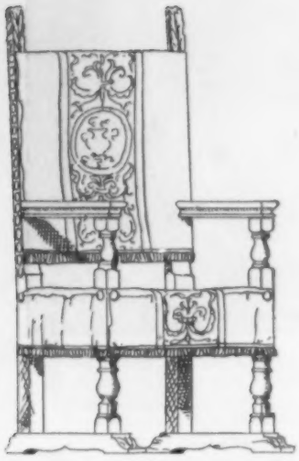
Spode's "Jewel," a delicate lacy pattern, comes either plain as shown below or with a decorated center. It is now available in a complete line. (Copeland & Thompson, Inc.)

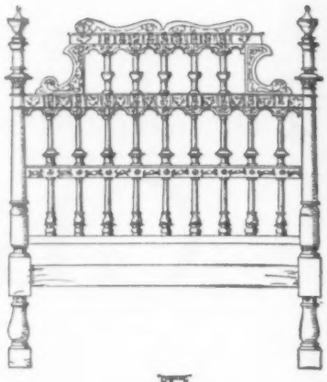
A Course in Furniture

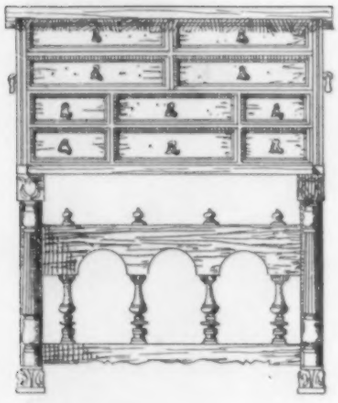
X. Mediterranean Furniture

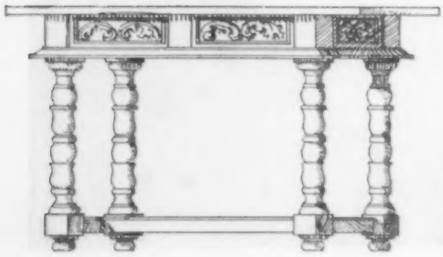
Drawings by LURELLE GUILD

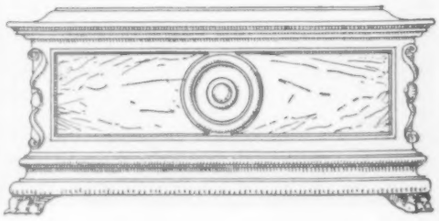
The earlier pieces of furniture in the Mediterranean countries were plain and austere but, with the progress of history, furniture reflected progressively the richness of the Renaissance, and the opulence of the Baroque. Later reproductions of all the period styles of France and England were found in Southern furniture, which adapted details from the French, English, Flemish, Dutch, and Moorish. The chest and the vargueño are the best known pieces of the time











"Madonna and Child," a Della Robbia plaque, charming in an Italian home. (Carbone)

FURNITURE under this heading includes that made in Italy, and on the Spanish Peninsula. The earliest Italian furniture shows many traces of the Gothic, but the models with which we are most familiar start with the Renaissance, and vary with its different periods, sweeping later into the flamboyant Baroque, and finally, during the eighteenth century reproducing the best known periods of England and France.

In all the Mediterranean countries furniture was of great importance. The accepted standards of architectural taste had a calculated restraint, and their severely plain interiors provided admirable backgrounds for the decorative household furniture which was thus thrown into sharp relief.

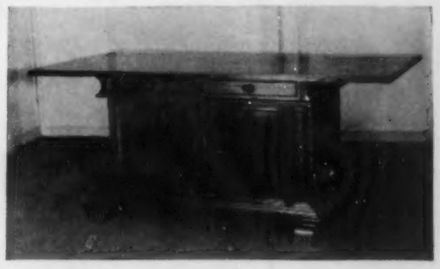
The articles of furniture in common use for centuries in Italy included the ever-useful cassone or chest, tables, stools, benches, beds, credenze, hanging cupboards, bookcases, writing cabinets and mirrors, with beautiful accessories of small chests and boxes, candelabra, fireplace equipment, and innumerable articles of intricate form made of wrought iron. The various woods used for cabinet making were first the native walnut, with oak next, and chestnut, poplar, pine, and beech for the less expensive pieces. There were also types of chests and chairs which were completely covered with leather, stamped velvet, or gesso painting, as well as a distinctive type which was elaborately inlaid, either with other woods, or with bone or ivory. Wrought iron was often used in making parts of the furniture, sometimes the legs or stretchers of tables would be of it, and the lower parts of chairs, or even the whole piece. Colored tiles were frequently made into small tables or benches.

Spanish furniture was very beautiful and interesting. Life in Spain was "stern, splendid, gorgeous, or imposing," and its furniture reflects these qualities to a marked degree. The interiors, whether in old castles, or humble homes were austere, and the furniture corresponds. The pieces most used were vargueños or cabinets, bedsteads, chairs, tables, wooden benches and carved seats, as well as gilded caskets, wrought-iron candelabra and fireplace furniture, torchères, and great cauldrons, braziers and saucepans of copper and brass. The most popular wood was walnut, oak being next, and occasionally a little chestnut or pine. The decorations were practically the same as the contemporaneous work of Italy, much use being made of gold leaf, richly colored paintings on gesso, inlay in wood and ivory, and decorations of brass-headed nails and studding. Leather and embossed velvets were employed quite frequently in upholstery work.

The furniture making of Portugal ran parallel with that of Spain, with the exception of the fact that many Oriental characteristics were introduced into the cabinet making, having been brought to this country through its trade with India and the Orient. Examples of early Portuguese work show an opulence and richness of detail which the Spanish never acquired, but the eighteenth century craftsmen produced graceful models which rank with the best examples of the day.

This pair of antique carved wood candlesticks, wired for two lights, have hand-painted parchment shades. The carved wood chest is a copy of a 17th century design. (Carbone)

Colored tile top tables with wrought iron frames are extremely useful and harmonize beautifully with modern Italian furnishings. (Stern Brothers)



This combination cabinet and table could be used as a focal point in a modern room of Mediterranean feeling. (Stern Brothers)

Richly colored pottery plays an important part in the furnishings of this period. (Stern Brothers)

The sturdy table at the left reproduces exactly the detailed carving of its prototype. (Stern Brothers)

Heavy chests, finely carved, are pieces of great importance in a Mediterranean house. Richly colored velvet used on chairs and elsewhere gives an air of splendor. (Carbone)

Sinclair Studio

The knotty pine walls, heavy pine beams, and wide oak floor boards put down with pegs, were enhanced by the harmonizing mellow tones of the furnishings, and this departure from the conventional created a room with an atmosphere of hospitality and gracious living

My Pine-Panelled Room

by LOIS LOGAN ESAREY

OUR pine-panelled living room, which is now the pride of our hearts and the talk of the small Middle-Western town in which we live, had its inception years ago at an auction sale. The occasion of the sale was the dissolving of an unprofitable antique business. My purse—being quite typical of that of a young professor's wife—would not permit me to bid upon the larger pieces, but my jealous eyes focused on a pair of beautifully cut bitters bottles and presently I bid them in for fifteen dollars, an extravagance which necessitated many small sacrifices. The price will, no doubt, astound my husband even now for he was frankly amazed that I considered them worth bringing home. But through years of living in apartments and cheap houses I carried the memory the picture had made of the old bottles, set upon an ancient walnut chest against a background of rough pine board wall.

Last summer when our growing family made some change in our living conditions imperative, and investigation proved to us the inadvisability of remodeling our small house, we gratefully accepted a contractor's offer to allow us so much on the old home toward a new house.

After lengthy consideration of plans we agreed upon a plan which, besides being beautifully worked out to the last detail, might almost have been planned to meet our individual needs.

When I saw the detail of the pine sheathing, which supported the ascending stairs in the entrance hall, I clasped my hands joyously.

"There it is," I proclaimed.

"There what is?" asked my husband.

"The perfect background for my old bitters bottles."

My husband gave me a tolerant smile but on the face of the contractor I caught the incredulous, faintly contemptuous, expression with which I was to become familiar during the growth of the house.

"So you're going to stick those old bottles right in the entrance hall," said my husband.

"Oh, no," I answered serenely, "I'm going to sheath the entire living room in knotty pine." (*Continued on page 233*)

Charming with Early American or French Provincial furniture is this petit toile bedspread which may be obtained for a single or double bed. It comes in blue and tan, yellow and orange, tan and brown, cream and blue, rust and tan. (Stern Brothers)

What the Well-Dressed Bed *is wearing*

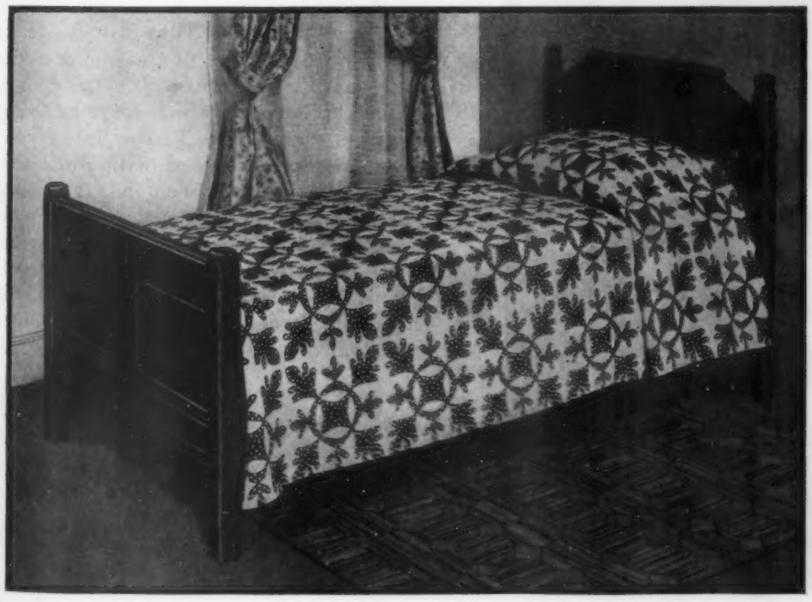
by MARJORIE LAWRENCE

IN THE era when a white Marseilles spread did duty in most sleeping chambers, the problem of the well-dressed bed had not arisen. To-day, a covering of this type suggests to most of us a hospital room. The bedspread, due to the comparatively large area which meets the eye, is a very important part of the bedroom and its success is often determined by a clever choice.

Most women to-day are "clothes-wise." That is, they make a definite study of their own particular type before selecting wearing apparel, so as to know what colors and lines will be most suitable. Dressing a bed is rather like dressing one's self. A coverlet which is "becoming" to one style may be exactly the wrong thing for another bed, no matter how attractive it may appear in a shop window or on the counter at your favorite store.

Shopping for a bedspread is a bewildering and fascinating occupation. There are scores of intriguing covers from which you may select the one best suited to your pocketbook and your bedroom. To make matters easier many shops have a special order department with skilled decorators who make intelligent suggestions to meet your individual case.

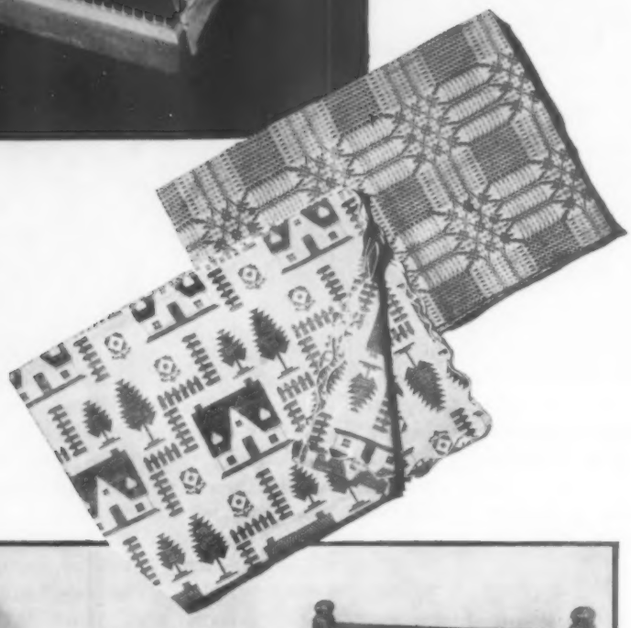
The room that is furnished with Early American or Colonial pieces, whether antiques or reproductions, is probably the easiest to deal with, in the current year. Suppose, for instance, that your bed is a maple four-poster. For an expenditure of less than three dollars, you may select a delightful quilted spread of printed cotton fabric, made with quite a generous ruffle.



This Cape Cod woven coverlet gives somewhat the effect of an old patchwork quilt and lends itself well to the Provincial style of furniture. It comes in white and navy, yellow and red, or yellow and green. (Gimbel Brothers)

From Germany come these washable spreads which are well suited to furniture of contemporary style. They have ombre stripings of blue, yellow, and green. (*Gimbel Brothers*)

These two woven spreads are delightful to use in either an Early American or Provincial room. The Blazing Star pattern is a very clever reproduction of a Kentucky hand-woven coverlet. The Schoolhouse design is especially effective in a child's room. (*R. H. Macy & Co.*)



If your decorative scheme calls for dark, rich colors, the Cape Cod pattern with its alluring windmills and tiny houses would be charming but, if your room inclines to the feminine, the four-poster might be graced by a Godey print in pastel tones, made in the same quaint, quilted fashion. These spreads are taped and bound in contrasting colors, giving added charm and decorative value to their interesting patterns.

For the summer home or the feminine bedroom, with Early American or simple painted bedstead, the small-patterned chintz spreads are delightful and are selling at prices that are unbelievably low. These may be bought for $2.95, with a shirred ruffle, and those with a box-pleated flounce and bandings of plain color sell at $3.95. The same type of spread is very charming in sateen of a tiny sprigged pattern.

India prints are inexpensive and effective with Colonial beds, whether simple four-posters or of the spool variety, but they are totally incongruous with French or sophisticated English furniture of the later periods. Somewhat of the same type but more distinctive in color and pattern are the Holland prints, or Javanesque spreads, as they are sometimes called. Both India and Holland prints come in straight, or tailored, versions, but their patterns, unlike chintz or cretonne, are designed for the area which they are to cover and are printed in panel and border form. For daybeds which are apt to receive more than their fair share of usage, they are particularly good as they do not show wear readily.

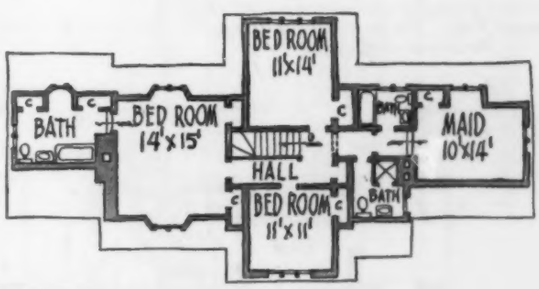
Another spread whose dark coloring and pliable texture make it extremely practical is the machine-woven version of the hand-loomed Kentucky coverlet. These spreads lend character to a bed of the provincial type and are very suitable in a man's room. They are made in clever reproductions of the old patterns and sell for about $4.50. In college rooms or bedrooms which serve as living quarters, they are invaluable.

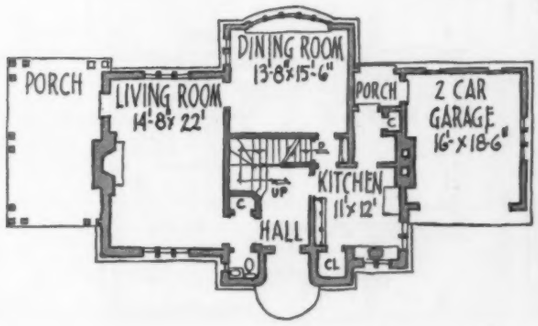
An attractive spread with authentic Colonial flavor is woven in a two-tone pattern which incorporates a tiny schoolhouse, a bit of picket fence, and a pine tree. This would be particularly appropriate in a schoolchild's room, and it comes in shades of red, green, or blue, selling at $4.64. (*Continued on page 241*)

Oak furniture, Old English in character, calls for rich colors in its surroundings. This spread of colorful crewel embroidery on natural linen is, therefore, in excellent taste. (*Stern Brothers*)

THE ALWAYS POPULAR TUDOR

Throughout the country Tudor or Early English architecture vies for favor with our own Colonial. It is more substantial looking, less severe, and has a charm of antiquity which may not be so noticeable in modern adaptations of the Colonial style. Unfortunately it, like every other architectural style, is easily ruined by over-elaboration and conscious striving for effect. We are pleased, therefore, to offer the house shown above as an example of how charming Tudor architecture can be when it is handled in a restrained and understanding way. The architect is Richard S. McCaffery, Jr. He suggests whitewashed brick for the walls and slate or wood shingles for the roof





Mr. McCaffery estimates the cubical contents at 31,565 cubic feet and at 45 cents a cubic foot, which is the probable price for this type of construction in the New York area, the cost would be $14,204. The adaptability of the floor plans in a rambling house is one of the desirable features of this type of architecture. Notice how Mr. McCaffery has conveniently fitted the essential elements into his plan. The maid's room and bath are over the garage; the master's bathroom is over the porch. There is a downstairs lavatory at the left of the entrance

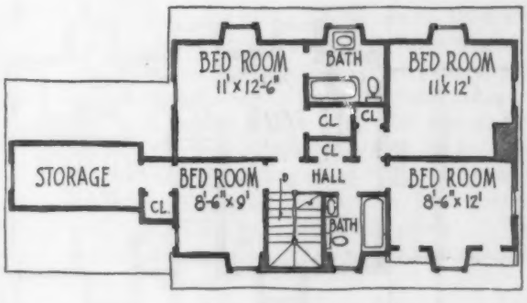
Donald B. Walker, of Cleveland, Ohio, who designed this little bungalow, estimates the cubage at 11,260 cubic feet. At 35 cents a cubic foot it would cost $3,950 to build. A firesafe heater room has been planned for the first floor, and the basement is omitted. If oil or gas were the fuel the rooms could be arranged as in the floor plan at the left below. However, if coal were used a bin would have to be provided as in the right-hand floor plan. The heater room is two steps below the level of the kitchen and a stairway from the living room could be built over it if it were desired to add two rooms and a bath on the second floor. The first floor wall is brick, the second wood siding

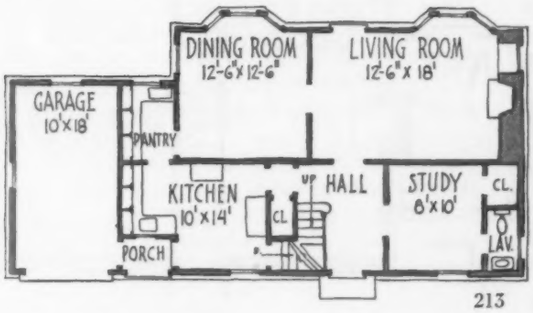
A $4,000 Cottage

of good plan and design

Eight Rooms for $10,000

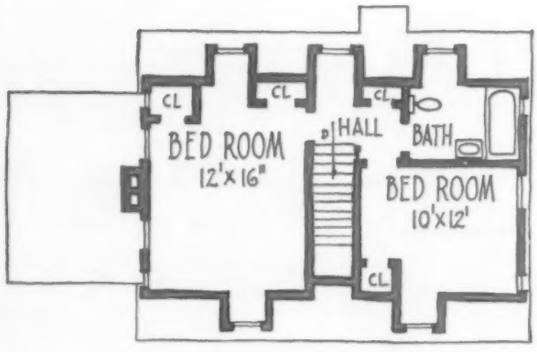
The wide-shouldered Dutch roof and the delicately designed old-fashioned doorway combine to give this charming house sturdiness and grace. The picket fence around a patch of green lawn adds another touch of quaintness. Donald G. Tarpley designed it for The American Home and he estimates the cubical contents, including a cellar under the entire house, except the garage wing, at 24,000 cubic feet. At 40 cents a cubic foot this 8-room house would cost $9,600 to build. There are two baths on the second floor and a downstairs lavatory attached to the study



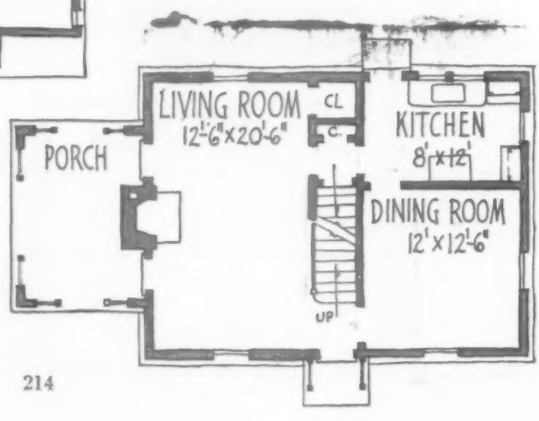


Mr. Tarpley suggests white-painted shingles ten inches to the weather for the walls of his Dutch Colonial house. The shutters, which might be bottle-green, have raised panels for decoration. This house would fit well on a small piece of property. The plans are excellently arranged. The downstairs study could be used as an extra bedroom. The living room and dining room are well lighted and ventilated with bay windows which are attractive features of this type of house. The long pantry serves as a passageway between kitchen and dining room

A $7,000 Cape Cod Colonial



"Sweet and lovely," the words of the popular song, might be the title for this page. The rose-covered lattices at the porch and over the front door merely emphasize the beautiful, satisfying proportions of this cottage in the real Cape Cod style. The architect is Frederic Morse Guilford



Mr. Guilford estimates the cubical contents at 17,000 cubic feet and at 40 cents a cubic foot it would cost $6,800 to build. He suggests moss green shingles for the roof, light cream shingle walls, and dark, slightly bluish green shutters. A rounded copper roof covers the trellis at the front door. The porch could be fitted with removable screens. It is reached through casement doors in the living room. Two small windows beside the others on the second floor aid in ventilating the upstairs

The American Home
Employment Plan

The third of a series of five articles suggesting ways of improving your home and at the same time giving employment to those in need of it

MORE than a hundred million minds in America join in the common wish for a really happy and prosperous new year. Not since the nation was welded together in a common desire for peace during the World War has it looked forward to a new year with such a universal desire for economic welfare. The year 1932 promises much, but the fulfillment of that promise rests in the hands of each individual family.

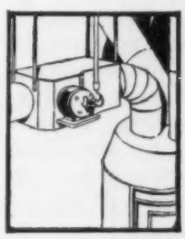
Many thousands of families have already found in THE AMERICAN HOME EMPLOYMENT PLAN a practical means of making a contribution toward national prosperity—first, by enhancing their own welfare through taking advantage of present low costs and, second, by finding employment for others at a time when employment is the only alternative to doles or charity. The keynote of this plan is "help yourself while helping others" by making improvements around your own home that will enhance its property values, maintain it in good condition, and make it a happier and pleasanter place in which to live. The response to this plan since its announcement in the November issue indicates that it is becoming an appreciable factor in bringing about conditions that will make for a prosperous 1932.

THIS month we continue the discussion of the items on the check list of one hundred suggestions (found at the end of the article) by taking up twenty more which are appropriate to the winter season. It is by no means necessary to confine your winter activities to the items suggested this month; the purpose of the check list is to help you find as many improvements as may be appropriate to your own home. Perhaps some of the items discussed in November can still be carried out; perhaps Christmas brought you funds that make possible some of the projects suggested as Christmas presents to the family in the December issue. You may even find among the items to be discussed in February and March ideas that you would prefer to put into effect at once. Whatever items you can adopt for your own winter improvement program, the important matter is to put them into effect without delay not only for your own benefit but to give continued relief to those who are in such dire need of work during these cold wintry days.

In your own community there are many sources through which to secure practical advice with regard to the adaptation of these suggestions to your own requirements. A visit to your local building material dealers, to your bank or building and loan association (for advice on financing the improvements), and to plumbing and heating supply houses or display rooms, lumber mills, and other sources of materials will prove extremely interesting and helpful. At the same time you may ask local contractors, electricians, carpenters, or whatever other trades the work involves to examine your home and submit suggestions and estimates for the work you have in mind. In most communities the local employment committees have listed men competent to estimate and perform the work for you and these committees should by all means be consulted. And remember that many of the items can be carried out by the handy man around the home without employing outsiders. This is still in the spirit of THE AMERICAN HOME EMPLOYMENT PLAN for, when you buy materials required to carry out these improvements, you are giving employment to factory and field workers and are contributing your share toward national economic recovery.

9. Convert coal-fired boiler or furnace to burn low-cost buckwheat or pea coal. Perhaps you have been unable to install an automatic stoker or an oil burner to modernize your heating plant but still desire the utmost fuel economy. In most sections of the country the small-size coal costs less than the regular furnace size; sometimes the price difference is nearly half of the usual cost per ton. But these small sizes which are often hardly more than coal dust, will not burn in an ordinary furnace with a normal draft. To permit their use, electric fans have been developed which can be inserted through a wall of the ash pit or in the lower clean-out door which will supply the necessary forced draft to permit the use of the cheapest fuels. In some cases the grates must be changed as well. But the cost of this fan, including changing grates, is so low that it usually can be made up in one season's heating bill. Consult your heating contractor or write to manufacturers of these electric furnace fans or blowers.

23. Install booster fan on warm air pipe leading to underheated room. If your house is heated by a warm air furnace with ducts leading to registers in each room, you may find that one or two rooms are not supplied adequately with heat while the rest of the house may be overheated. If you cannot adopt the suggestion made in Item No. 48 in the check list and discussed in November, you can economically correct this difficulty by purchasing one or two small electric fans that are built into an



enlarged section of a standard warm air basement duct. Your sheet metal worker or heating contractor takes out a section of the present metal ducts in the cellar, puts in this booster fan on the line leading to the cold room, and an electrician connects the fan to your heating system preferably with a switch in the room that is served. The fan only needs to be turned on when you need heat; it does not interfere with the gravity circulation of warm air to the room, but in cold wintry days you can force an extra volume of air to the cold part of the house by turning on the fan.

24. Correct the heating of a cold room. If the foregoing suggestion does not solve your problem because of the use of other types of heating, consider each of the following four methods of improving the heating of individual rooms: (a)—Install weatherstripping on windows or install an extra winter window (storm sash). Consult weatherstripping or standard millwork manufacturers, or your local carpenters or sash and door mills. (b)—Insulate the sidewalls and ceilings either by lining the existing outside walls and ceiling with an insulating board over the existing walls, adding new plaster, plastic paint or papering; or by having fibrous or flake insulation blown into the dead-air space in the walls by machinery. The latter plan is practical for all types of houses, for the mechanics who do this work have means of getting access to the dead-air spaces without impairing the interior or exterior finish of the house. Consult local carpenters or decorators for the first plan, or manufacturers of air-blown insulations for the second. (c)—Increase the size of existing radiators. Consult local heating contractors. (d)—Install an auxiliary electric or gas heater of which there are several types to build into walls, as well as portable types. Modern electric units have an electric fan for uniform distribution. Also consider local gas-fired or electric steam radiator.

26. Modernize floor plan of house by combining two rooms in one, changing or removing partitions, etc. If the room area in your house is obsolete or awkward, it is not a difficult nor necessarily very expensive task to change entire partitions or to remove them as may be required to secure a more satisfactory plan arrangement. This matter was discussed fully in the December, 1930, issue. Consult local general contractor who will advise on the most practical method of making alterations and will estimate cost. Also consult plumbing and heating contractors regarding rearrangement of piping in walls or relocation of radiators, and consult electrician about changing the wiring system. The values accruing from such alterations are usually greater than their cost.

28. Provide extra bedroom by sub-dividing large room, by using waste space in attic, or by extra addition. The same methods apply to solving the problem of securing an extra bedroom. If a large room can be sub-divided to make two, or if waste space in the attic is available for the purpose, the job is largely one of installing partitions and redecorating the rooms thus created. If these possibilities are not apparent, an extra room can be added by building on the exterior of the house. Using frame construction, this work can be done in the winter months without difficulty, for the exterior addition may be completely enclosed and made weather-tight before openings are cut into the old portion. Consult your local general contractors or carpenters and the necessary associated trades; also consider financing through a temporary mortgage or by arrangement with building and loan association.

30. Install door bed in sewing room, library, or other extra room (having a closet) to make it a convertible bedroom for occasional guests. The extra bedroom problem can often be solved by merely installing a door bed in the closet of some room not already used as a bedroom. These beds are available in several types including those that require no attachment to the closet door or wall but merely use the closet for daytime storage, and those which are attached to the closet door or to the wall of the closet itself. They cost about the price of a good bed and spring, and are available in sizes to fit any standard closet door. Installation is usually made by a carpenter who may also apply heavier hinges or reinforce the door to carry the weight of the bed if required. Write to manufacturers of folding metal beds or built-in furniture.

35. Build new closets for one or more bedrooms. A new closet with all of its advantages and conveniences need not cost much more than portable wardrobes, chests of drawers, or other furniture to give required clothing storage. Consult your carpenter for cost of building in a new closet with appropriate fittings. The work causes little disturbance but should be done just before redecorating the room in which it is placed.

42. Modernize the kitchen arrangement for more efficient work. Most kitchens built a decade or more ago are far behind present-day trends in kitchen planning and efficiency. The kitchens are usually too large and are poorly arranged for step-saving and convenient work. The first move is to rearrange the plan of the kitchen, if necessary installing a partition to reduce its size and making extra space available for a breakfast nook, downstairs toilet, storage pantry, or even a maid's room. Lay out the most efficient arrangement you can conceive on the floor of your kitchen, using pieces of paper to represent the size of the individual units. Then consult carpenter regarding cost of changing or installing partitions, and confer with plumber regarding rearrangement of sink, range, and possibly the refrigerator. At the same time keep in mind the new opportunities for making your kitchen more decorative and easily maintained by the use of new flooring materials, wall finishes, and colorful painting, all of washable character.

43. Build breakfast nook in unused part of kitchen or pantry, or build new breakfast porch. Often by a slight rearrangement of the kitchen units, space can be found for a convenient breakfast nook that will save many steps. Standardized furniture is available at low cost for this purpose both in fixed and folding types. Often a large storage closet or pantry can be devoted to this purpose by using modern kitchen cabinets as suggested in the next item. If these methods do not solve your problem, consider the addition of a new breakfast porch on the exterior which can readily be built of frame construction during the winter without interfering with the use of the kitchen. Consult general contractor, carpenter, or local mill work supply houses; also write for literature of manufacturers of built-in furniture.

44. Install new kitchen or pantry cupboards and closets or modernize existing storage space. One of the easiest ways to make a kitchen more convenient is to utilize its existing (*Continued on page 234*)

Dana B. Merrill

With informality the keynote of breakfast entertaining, nothing could be more appropriate to use than colorful peasant linen and charming pottery. Electrical table appliances save many unnecessary steps for the hostess at breakfast time. (Linen and pottery, Mitteldorfer Straus, Importer; electrical appliances, Lewis & Conger)

Friendly Breakfasts

To start the day right

by RACHEL DUNAWAY COX

BREAKFAST may mean a cup of coffee and a piece of toast taken in grumpy haste behind a defensively raised newspaper. For most of the people most of the time, that is exactly what it does mean. Fate and a workaday world seem to have destined that it shall be so; but it need not be that exclusively. It may be a delicately delicious meal, eaten at leisure, made pleasurable by the company of friends and the amenities we ordinarily reserve for dinner.

There is such a thing as company breakfast. When overnight guests stay until Sunday or a holiday morning, when friends come out from the city for a week-end or for a day in the great open spaces, when a skating or skiing party assembles, or when a genial troop of business and professional people whose week days leave little time for social activities gathers, breakfast hospitality is a most suitable festivity.

One of the keenest delights of going to a party is in stepping out of the narrow groove of routine, dressing up and putting on one's company state of mind and sitting down to a meal to which we have not given an instant's thought in advance. The edge of pleasure is sharpened even more if the occasion is an unusual one. Dinners and luncheons are an old story; but breakfast—well breakfast is almost a virgin field of entertaining, requiring a special technique that only faintly resembles that for other times of day.

Of course company breakfast doesn't mean a meal taken at the crack of dawn when everybody would rather be in bed and is inwardly cursing the perverted idea that routed people out of slumber. It should be a leisurely meal when the day is well advanced and the early morning's feeble appetite has been reinforced by several hours of extra sleep.

THE tone of the occasion will be informality, whether the guests have spent the night under your own roof or have come from across town to drink coffee with you. Of course a brisk sunshiny morning is best for company breakfast, because that makes it possible to send the guests for a tramp in the woods before they come to the table. However, even if snow is falling, a walk will be to the purpose and make your good waffles taste even better. If some of the party wish to attend church, the meal may be delayed as late as twelve o'clock, provided, of course, you have given everybody a bracer of coffee and the tiniest bit of dry toast to stave off the inner wolf until the breakfast hour arrives.

When the hungry breakfasters gather, let it be in the living room before a blazing log fire. Eschew the cold formality of the dining room or the hasty convenience of the breakfast nook for a place with an atmosphere of generous comfort. A sunporch that is warmed by the winter sun and

To start the day with a nourishing and palatable breakfast is essential to good health. And with the diversity of easily prepared breakfast foods available there need be no excuse for the monotonous daily start of coffee and toast to which many of us have become addicted

judicious steam heat, is a pleasant place to eat breakfast too, if there are green plants and the vivid color of bittersweet berries or cyclamen about. The library is inviting because its very look incites lingering and puts hurrying through the buns and cereal farthest from the mind.

Nested tables or a bridge table unfolded and drawn into a warm and cosy spot is a base of operations for the meal; as a matter of fact, most people prefer to have a solid place for their plate of waffles or griddle cakes, and the drop-leaf table which almost every library or living room boasts these days can be drawn appropriately into service. In any event the thing the breakfast hostess remembers is that she wants to give an atmosphere quite apart from anything her guests are accustomed to associate with breakfast; the only thing that is the same is the food, and the food is breakfast-makings raised to an unusually high plane.

THE tables should be spread with the charming plaid French linens or the gorgeously embroidered Russian cloths now popular in this country, and the most appropriate dishes are French or Italian peasant things with their quaint drawings of men and women and animals sketched crudely on the glazed ware. Nobody could be stiff or formal while he eats eggs off a Quimper plate. And, of course, coffee cups should be Gargantuan. A hostess who serves coffee in a cup that holds two thirds of a pint will make a devoted slave and a constant visitor of any masculine member of the party. And it is barely possible that the ladies, though they don't clamor so loudly for enormous coffee cups, would be pleased with them once they encountered them.

Nobody at the breakfast should feel that he must be bright and conversational. On the contrary, everyone should be encouraged to follow his own devices by placing around in convenient spots several Sunday newspapers, new magazines, and two or three of the latest, most talked about novels. The tactful hostess will wait until after her guests have downed the first cup of coffee to expect much conversation from them. Let them loll in the armchairs, for they should be seated in the most comfortable chairs the library offers. They will sit up straight in the dining room later in the day; but now the indulgence of an overstuffed chair ministers to the inner as well as to the outer man.

The English way of serving breakfast, with everything under covers on a near-by buffet or serving table, is perfect for this sort of situation, especially if the food can be kept warm. And, with our modern electrical devices, keeping things warm does not offer such an insurmountable obstacle, for toast and waffles may be made right under the guests' noses, and even muffins may be kept piping in the oven of a tiny electric grill which has recently been perfected. In homes where the electric grill has not yet made its appearance, the heavy waterless cookers serve admirably for keeping things hot. They may be placed inconspicuously in a corner of the hearth, unless there is one of the charming old Dutch ovens in the wall of the fireplace.

As to the food, there are several advantages in a substantial breakfast late in the morning for the week-end hostess, chief among them the fact that it will mean only two meals to be prepared instead of the conventional three. And, however smart a breakfast you serve, it will be less trouble than luncheon would be. Much of the preparation can be done the night before, such as the assembling of dishes, glassware and linen, or preparing the fruit, A great many housewives have discovered that waffle batter comes out of the irons more crisp and light if it is chilled for several hours, even overnight, before using.

Every breakfast should start with fruit of some kind, and guest breakfasts are no exception. Plenty of people must have their orange juice, just as plenty of others must have their coffee, so it is a good idea to make it available, but instead of doling it out in the little glasses we use every day, bring to the table a good-sized glass pitcher three quarters full of the juice, so that everybody can have a second before or after the meal if he wishes. The unusual procedure will make as deep and pleasant impression as anything you could do; and if there is juice left over, it can readily be used in an orange-flavored jellied dessert or whip for next day. A mixture of orange and grapefruit juice is a distinguished breakfast starter, fresh orange juice and either fresh or canned grapefruit juice being used. It is better not to sweeten this drink, since there are many people who like grapefruit just as nature turns it out, but to pass around powdered sugar for those who wish it.

HONEYDEW stays with us throughout the greater part of the winter and is always welcome. Little glass fruit dishes piled with honeydew balls is an unusual breakfast serving. Alternate sections of orange and grapefruit on a green or amber glass plate make a very pretty dish. The oranges may be simply peeled with the fingers and the sections carefully separated without breaking the skin, but the grapefruit should be peeled with a sharp knife and the sections cut apart, great care being exercised to get rid of all the white membrane. Unless the oranges are quite large it would probably be better to use half a grapefruit section to an orange section. If it is available in *(Continued on page 243)*

Those Anniversary Presents

by ADELE WYMAN

A GOOD husband may forget many things: the theatre tickets he's been asked to buy, evening backgammon engagements, checks for charities—and survive such defaults to be graciously forgiven "until next time." But a wise husband never, never lets a date of romantic meaning elude his memory, or leave his wallet unscathed. For women are that way—their natal days and their nuptial days simply must not be forgotten!

Fond mothers and mothers-in-law, who enjoy nothing so much as enhancing the lares and penates of the young folk with something really smart and to the point, often welcome enlightening, it being difficult for them to remember the significance of all anniversaries. One needn't be too obvious, of course, but one can casually mention a pair of handsome fire bellows toward the approach of the third. And if a balm for conscience be required, one may remember that there are such things as twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries providing opportunities for reciprocity!

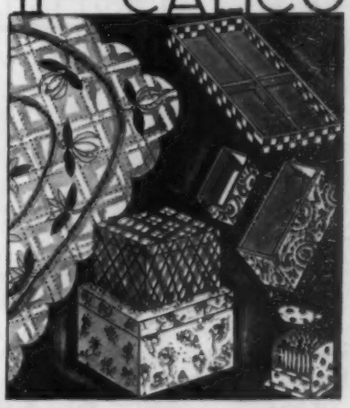
A guide to inspired buying, with the special import of the successive anniversaries considered, is presented here for donors who may be perplexed.

The first (*Paper*)—No need for a furrowed brow if one has a first anniversary gift to buy. For what could be more appropriate and symbolic than a three-year subscription to a fine home magazine? That seems ideal. Then, there are bookplates (for which one may present a paid order to

Wedding anniversaries must never be forgotten—especially by the wise husband. Although there seems to be a wide range of gifts from which to choose, one should select something appropriate for the year as each anniversary has its significance

I PAPER

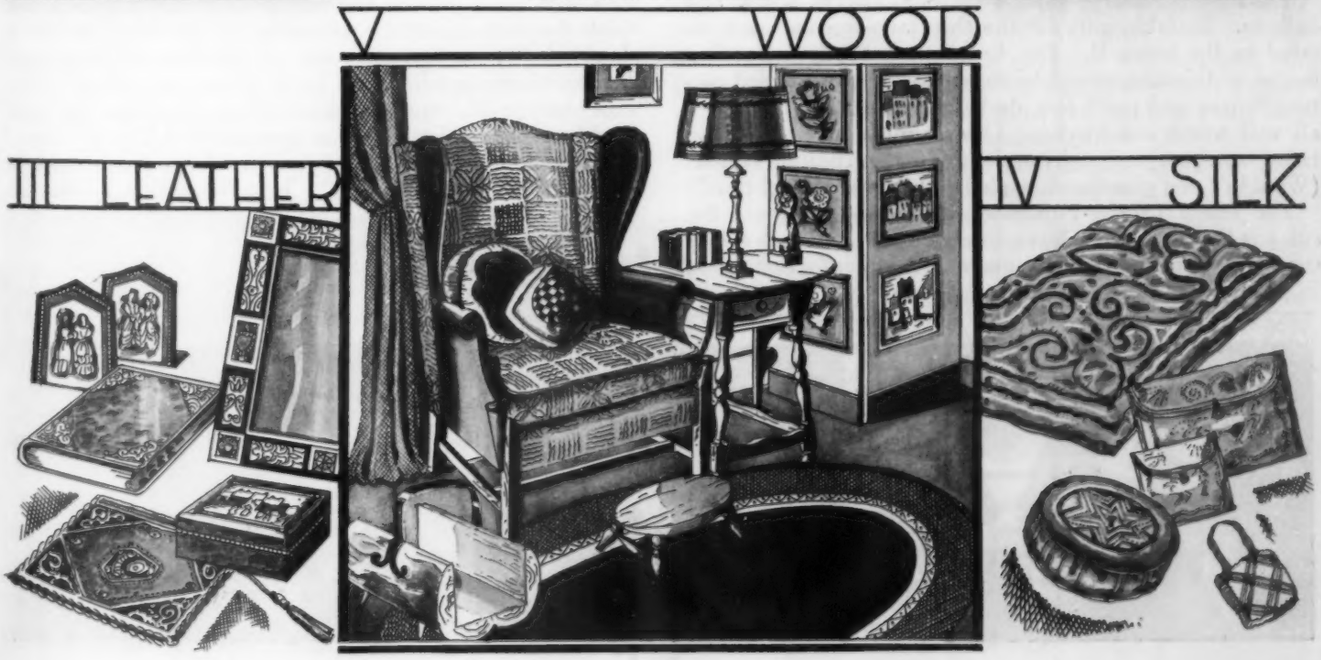
II CALICO



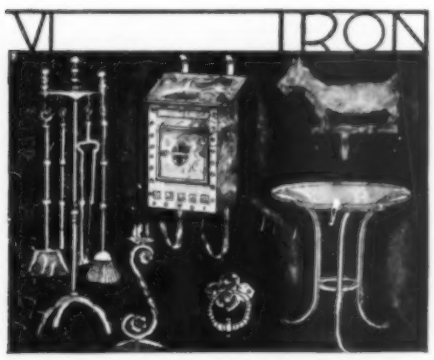
Illustrations by Laurence Guetthoff

V WOOD

III LEATHER



IV SILK



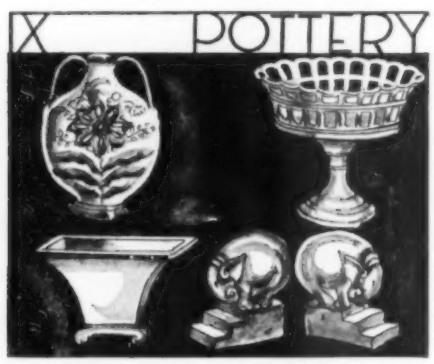
an artist for execution, if one is not sure of the bookish friends' tastes.) But there are dozens of superb paper gifts: tricky boxes of good stationery; scrapbooks for house and garden clippings; prints and original etchings; pasteboard games for two if one is spending just a little; monogrammed playing cards; papier mâché globes; books of all kinds; and photograph portfolios—among which we have just seen an enchanting new one with a printed paper cover showing old-fashioned figures in sepia, and with inserts of bookbinder's linen for protecting the contents from dust.

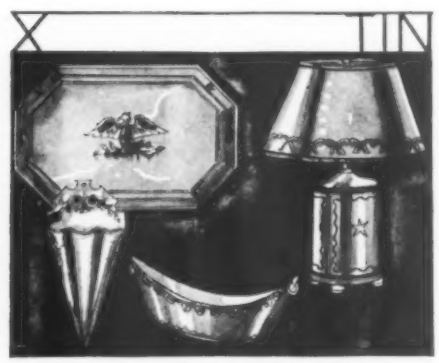
The second (*Calico*)—A gift in calico suitable for both members of the household—this is a bit more complicated. And yet there are charming comforters in calico, quaint small pillows, and closet accessories for the use and convenience of both man and wife. A small, whimsical remembrance might be a box of chintz matches.

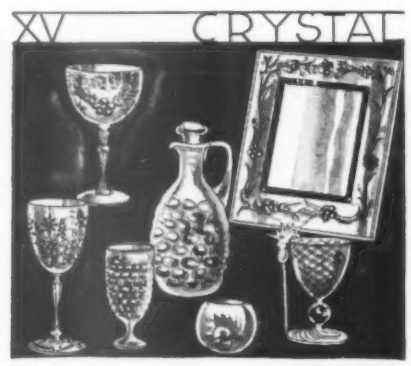
The third (*Leather*)—Book-ends, book covers, boxes, and bellows. Suitable gifts for the third anniversary seem related to the letter B. But to proceed strictly on such a course of thinking would leave out lovely hand-tooled picture frames and portfolios, desk accessories, and luggage—all well worth considering. One's affluence and affection being on a par, one might present a leather chair, of course. (Wouldn't one's husband be glad to be remembered thus?)

The fourth (*Silk*)—Feminine accessories dominate the silk gift list—boudoir pillows, lingerie cases, and such things coming first to mind. But one might be really smart and present the four-year-old household with a luscious silk comforter or with bath shower curtains of rubberized silk.

The fifth (*Wood*)—Commemorating five years of marriage, wooden weddings are something to celebrate, even unromantic males concede. For fifth anniversary gifts, there is surely no dearth of ideas. There is the whole field of furniture from which to choose, and if you don't think it is rich in good values, have you shopped for furniture recently? Chairs, desks, tables, even room suites might be selected by relatives for giving. A close friend or a more casual one might proffer a cricket footstool, a wood basket for the fireplace, or a quaint wood carving from Switzerland. Wood panel screens make handsome gifts, but even a bright new breadboard might be vastly appreciated.

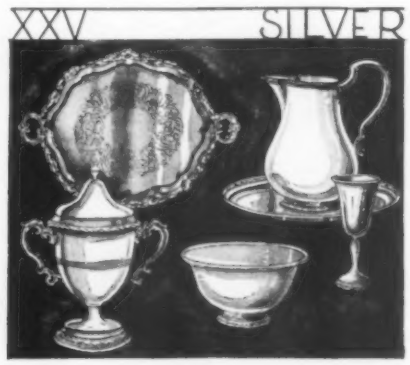






The sixth (*Iron*)—Beyond the sixth, the anniversaries are usually slighted, until the tenth rolls around. But with such good gifts as the iron anniversary suggests, we think the sixth should be remembered. To start thinking along this line, we list: andirons and fire-sets, weather-vanes door-knockers, candlesticks, post boxes, and iron tables with glass or tile tops. You can think of others that you would as much enjoy giving as getting.

The seventh (*Wool*)—What does the little lamb suggest for the seventh anniversary? Just three things—but so ideal that they make the list long enough: warm soft blankets in gay colors, a big, burly motor robe, and a charming hooked rug of long-wearing woolen. (*Continued on page 242*)



A Little House

that looks at the dawn

by VIRGINIA TERRELL LATHROP

"Dawn Hill," the home of the Heywards, is set back from the main highway about half a mile and looks out across the blue hills of the western North Carolina mountains into the face of the rising sun

DU BOSE HEYWARD, author of "Porgy" and other celebrated novels, and his wife, Dorothy, a successful playwright in her own right, who both love the country, have found in the western North Carolina mountains an ideal place for the home that the success of "Porgy" made possible. So quietly do they and their infant daughter, Jennifer, live there, and so cosily does their home nestle into its surroundings of white pines, laurel, rhododendrons, and ivy-covered stone walls, that until one reaches the entrance to the driveway of old pines, one scarcely realizes that this is the country home of a famous author.

This little house is a dream that started a dozen or more years ago, when Du Bose Heyward, a young insurance man with a yearning to write poetry, went into the mountains of North Carolina to rebuild his strength. Walks about the countryside took him often through the land that is now the site of his cottage, "Dawn Hill." He saw its possibilities as a setting for a home, though on the spot on which his house now stands was a log cabin.

He knew then that should he ever build a home there it would be called "Dawn Hill," for the little rise on which it now stands looks out across the blue hills of the Pinnacle Range into the face of the rising sun.

But in the cabin lived an old woman whose husband, when he was dying, made a peculiar provision for her future. Fearing that she would be left in want because of the mortgage on the land, he called in his neighbors and between them they raised the money to buy the mortgage with the understanding that should they resell, it would be only on condition that the widow could live there for the remainder of her life.

Young Heyward wanted to buy the land, and though there was not much money with which to buy it, he persuaded the old lady to sell, with the understanding that she release half of it to him at once, and that she should live in her cabin on the remaining eight acres until the end of her days. On his first acres he built a modest cabin which is now the home of the caretaker.

It wasn't long, however, before the old lady died and the Heywards were at liberty to build their home in the face of the sunrise.

Set back from the highway, perhaps a half mile, the hospitality and graciousness of the house are apparent in the first glimpse of it at the bend of the road. Friendly it is, this new-old house, with its gray shingled walls and white blinds outlined against the dark evergreen trees and the ever-blue mountains. From the old lady they inherited a driveway of stately pines, a driveway that leads directly to the front door with such a sweep of welcome that one can almost reach the great brass knocker without getting out of the car. For one must come in a car; it is a long way from any other means of transportation.

Friendliness strikes another note when the door is opened for, if it is winter and frost is in the air, one steps immediately into a living room with a great log fire that reflects itself in old mahogany brought from Charleston, and that casts its shadows on oil paintings of the early Heywards. The old gentleman over the mantel may be the one who signed his name to the Declaration of Independence, or he may be the ancestor (*Continued on page 235*)

Du Bose Heyward, well-known author of "Porgy," and his wife, Dorothy, a successful playwright, in one of their cosy studios built in a secluded spot on their estate where never a sound disturbs their work save the whispering of the wind through the pines and the gurgling of the mountain brook

A twenty-five dollar

Annual Budget Garden

by ROMAINE B. WARE

WHEN I knew Bill Taylor as a boy nobody suspected he would develop into a discriminating garden lover. Last year an extended auto jaunt took me through his section, and so I looked him up. I was more than surprised to see the garden he had developed.

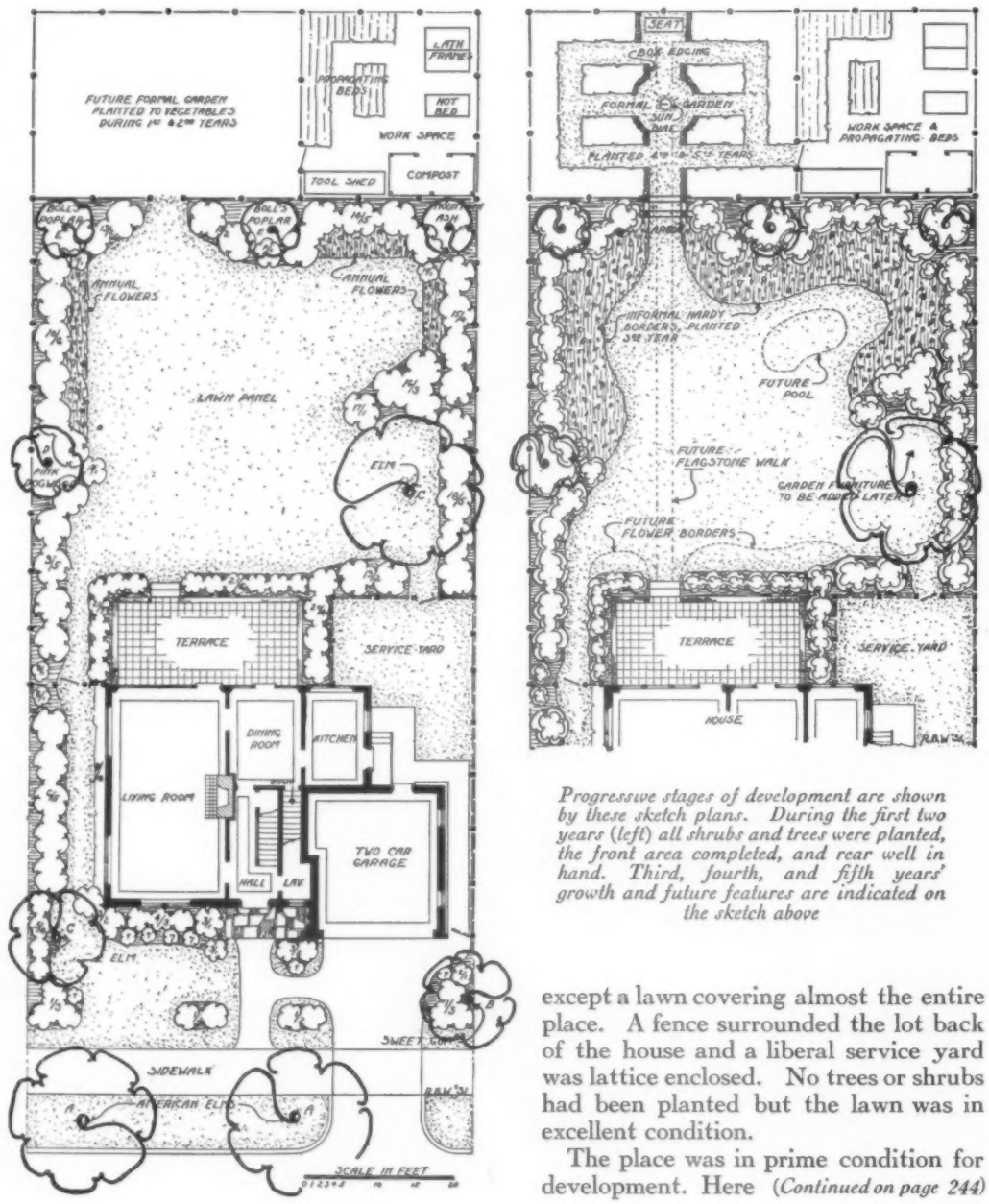
"Bill, you must have spent a lot of money to get these results."

"No, the cost has been comparatively small, in fact I have limited my expenditure for garden material to not more than twenty-five dollars a year. And the result as you see it has been accomplished in five years."

We spent the long summer evening sitting on the terrace and Bill told how he had developed from a garden novice to the point where his present garden had been accomplished. The first few years of their married life had been spent in apartments and his wife, Mary, was always dreaming of the home she would like to have with a garden and flowers. One of the first magazines she subscribed to was THE GARDEN MAGAZINE (succeeded by THE AMERICAN HOME) and their garden scrapbook of clippings from this and other sources was a mine of valuable information. Bill had never paid much attention to gardens and flowers but he had always admired attractive homes, and the longings and aspirations of Mary for a home with a garden found ready response in him.

Acquiring taste in gardening is a gradual process. The Taylors not only read magazines on the subject but gradually they purchased a score of garden books besides reading many the public library contained. In the meantime, babies came and with them an even stronger urge to get out of the apartment and raise their family where grass and trees and flowers replaced cement sidewalks and window boxes. At last their opportunity came and they purchased a home in a new section of the city where far-sighted development had laid out lots of liberal proportions rather than the meager "forty by a hundred" so frequently seen.

The architect had already recognized the trend of home planning that makes the garage an integral part of the house and locates it at the front where the least possible area is wasted in driveways. A terrace at the rear, opening from the living and dining rooms invited yard development as an outdoor living room. The Taylors moved into the home in midsummer. The builder had made no planting



Progressive stages of development are shown by these sketch plans. During the first two years (left) all shrubs and trees were planted, the front area completed, and rear well in hand. Third, fourth, and fifth years' growth and future features are indicated on the sketch above

except a lawn covering almost the entire place. A fence surrounded the lot back of the house and a liberal service yard was lattice enclosed. No trees or shrubs had been planted but the lawn was in excellent condition.

The place was in prime condition for development. Here (*Continued on page 244*)

Gaily red with its crowning whorl of showy bracts, simulating and masquerading as a flower, the Poinsettia prettily expresses the season's spirit. Keeping it for another year is not really difficult

Christmas Plants

Particularly Poinsettias

by LOUISE BUSH-BROWN

When the holiday festivities are done with and you must settle back into quiet routine, usually there pops up the question as to what is to become of those gay Christmas plants, how to keep them in good condition as long as possible, and finally what to do with them subsequently—particularly those two colorful leaders, the Poinsettia and the Jerusalem Cherry.

Poinsettias thrive well in a temperature ranging from seventy to eighty degrees and they require an abundance of water. We must remember that they are tropical plants, and need a warm, moist atmosphere for their best development. They are very sensitive to sudden changes in temperature and they must not ever be placed in a direct draft. If the temperature drops much below sixty at night one is apt to have trouble as the leaves will begin to turn yellow and drop prematurely and the beauty of the plant is soon gone. Attention being given to these small details, however, Poinsettias may be kept in flower for many weeks. And even after the flowers have faded the life of the plant is by no means over for, with proper care, Poinsettias may be kept on for several years.

After the blooms have faded the flower stalks are to be cut down and the pots stored away in the cellar or in some semi-dark place where they can be kept perfectly dry. In this way a dormant or rest period is provided which is essential to the welfare of the plant if it is to be kept over for another season. About the middle of April repot the plants in fresh soil, a rich mixture of garden loam and compost being used. During the process of repotting practically all the soil may be removed from the roots without any harm to the plant. Place the pots in a sunny window and water regularly. Vigorous new growth will soon start and if you wish to grow a number of young plants for the coming season cuttings may be taken at this time.

Insert the cuttings in clean sand and place over a radiator where they will have "bottom" heat. A flower pot may be used for this purpose. Keep the sand moist and shade the cuttings from direct sunlight until they have begun to root. As soon as they are well rooted shift into small size pots, a mixture of half sand and half loam being used. As the plants grow they may be transplanted into larger pots and a richer soil mixture used.

During the summer months Poinsettias, whether they are new plants grown from cuttings or old plants which are being carried over, may either be kept in pots or may be planted out in the open. It is, on the whole, wiser to keep them in pots as there is then no danger of having them suffer a check when they are lifted in the autumn. The pots may be plunged in the open ground or may be placed in a coldframe. When transplanting is done, take great care to disturb the roots as little as possible. The plants may be trained to a single stem by disbudding all side shoots or they may be allowed to branch freely. If tall plants with a few large blooms are desired it is best to train them to single stems. In growing Poinsettias it must be constantly borne in mind that abundant water is essential during the hot summer months. Unless adequate moisture is supplied the plants may become sadly stunted.

In September, before the nights begin to get really cool, the plants should be brought indoors and placed in a sunny window and from now on, great care should be exercised to see that the proper temperature is maintained. In order to stimulate growth and bring the plants into bloom for the holiday season extra feeding should be done. Most florists give a light application of liquid cow manure but at home it is far easier to use some commercial preparation such as Vigoro which supplies nourishment for the plants in very concentrated form. Late in November the bracts, which form the so-called "flowers", should begin to show color and by Christmas the plants should be gay with bloom.

Almost everyone knows and loves the Jerusalem Cherries with their myriad orange balls, and under favorable conditions they will remain in fruit for many weeks. Unlike Poinsettias they thrive best in a cool room where the temperature ranges from sixty to sixty-five degrees. If they are kept in too warm a room the leaves and berries will soon begin to shrivel and the plant will assume a generally unhappy appearance. Jerusalem Cherries are also extremely sensitive to illuminating or coal gas.

Water regularly, and with care. Never let the pots dry out entirely, but, on the other hand, the soil must not become too saturated. An excellent practice is to knock the knuckle of the forefinger against the pot. If a hollow, ringing sound is given forth it is proof that the plant needs water. If, however, the only sound is a dull thud it is well to withhold water for a time longer.

Jerusalem Cherries may be very easily propagated by means of cuttings and it is possible (*Continued on page 247*)

The flourishing Fan Palm on the left betrays this as a garden of the Lower South. The background and framework of Evergreen trees and shrubs with scattering bloom in the beds at any season give a continuous all-year-round effect

Illusion of Summer in Winter

Permanent green for gardens of the Lower South

by MARY WILLIS SHUEY

THERE is no climate quite as deceiving as that of the Lower South, and it has never been the custom to be entirely truthful about it. There are glorious bright days of sunshine and summer, right in the heart of winter—days when Pansies and Roses and Poinsettias bloom gaily, and seeds pop out of the ground as if by magic. But there are also dreary days of driving rains that beat small flowers to the ground; and there are quick snaps of freezing temperature that leave all the tropical plants black and blighted.

Those freezes are the skeletons in our closets. We keep them as carefully hidden and never refer to them even to our dearest friends—if those friends happen to be Northerners. They do not occur often; four or five years may go by without a killing freeze, even for the tender plants, and it is only once in many years that there has been sleet and ice as in 1929-30.

The Northern visitor comes down in January or February, and finds the winter grass brightly green, the Camellias blooming, the yellow Jasmine drooping in fountain sprays in the center of the wide neutral grounds of the New Orleans avenues. The Lady Banksia Roses are beginning to bud or are in bloom; the Bignonia which covers the trellises has a summery air; the Camphor trees and Palms give a tropical touch; and around the larger homes Azaleas are blooming.

If the visitor goes to Florida, it is the same story: summer in winter, flowers the year round, a climate where everything grows.

Walking in the sunshine, overcoats shed, visitors aren't inclined to question too closely the hows and whys of this magic. Few of them notice that there is a brown tinge to the Palms, and that in some of the (*Continued on page 246*)

Pettisporum hedges abound in the gardens of our Southland. These perhaps too frequently solve the problem of foundation planting with easy evergreen growth that stands shearing

Changing Fashions

in Vegetable Varieties

by ADOLPH KRUHM

THE constant clamoring of the critical cook for something better to put on the table is, in the last analysis, the dominating factor in any change from old standards and stand-bys. Nature's own work in evolution and mutation also accounts for some progress, as plants under cultivation do vary; but the recognition and salvaging of any such progress depends largely on the grower's ability to realize the improvement under exceptional surroundings.

The constant desire of the grower (that is the professional seed grower) to improve his own strains or stocks leads to making new varieties or strains through cross-fertilization and critical selection to type of seed parents in established strains. And further there is the curiosity of the gardener leading him to experiment with introductions from foreign lands, etc.

Oxheart Tomato, a late purple variety with almost solid flesh

Italian Sprouting Broccoli is easier to grow than cauliflower and stands heat better

Silver-Flesh Giant Kohlrabi can attain good size without getting hard or woody

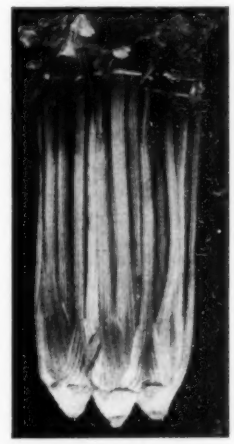
The case of Chinese Cabbage will illustrate. Thirty years ago on the Burpee "novelty shelf" there reposed a small quantity of Chinese Cabbage seed. Every spring for several seasons, samples were sown in the firm's trial grounds. These early trials invariably produced coarse, bluish green plants, the flat leaves of which had small thorny edges. Not even cows would eat them.

Then, quite by accident, a sample of this "cabbage" was sown during July along with Turnip and other fall trials and lo—the miracle! The end of September saw a row of fine Pe-Tsai Cabbage heads, or rather loaves, for Pe-Tsai forms oval heads not unlike those of well-grown Cos Lettuce. That experiment marked the beginning of the popularity which the various varieties of Chinese Cabbage now enjoy as fine salad plants. Wong Bok is, perhaps, the finest of the lot.

A mutation must be discovered by some grower before people generally can benefit. Twenty years ago, one California grower discovered two *bush* plants in a field of King of the Garden Pole Limas. One of those which became Fordhook Bush Lima changed the color fashion in Lima beans. After its introduction everybody in search of quality in Limas looked for *green* beans instead of white ones. The other, Burpee Improved Bush Lima, established new records in size of pods from dwarf plants.

Frequently it is a combination of hybridizing and subsequent selection to a mental concept that produces results. That was the case with Livingston's Globe Tomato, which changed our ideas as to what constitutes perfect shape in a tomato. Incidentally, it greatly enriched hundreds of Florida growers for the combination of form and size worked out perfectly in standard shipping crates.

But size and solidity concern the home gardener more than shipping virtues, so Globe blood and some other parent produced Oxheart which stands to-day as the acme among late home garden varieties.



Giant Red is pink stalked Celery returned to us from England, larger than of old

THE quality of Golden Bantam Sweet Corn stimulated tests toward the production of larger cob yellow varieties. It is hardly safe yet to render judgment as to their success. Hybrids are sometimes difficult to "fix" in habit—they behave differently on various soils and in different seasons. To the best of my knowledge only three have approached Golden Bantam quality of flavor: Golden Wedding, New Burpee, and Golden Evergreen. There are two strains of the last named. One is the product of crossing Golden Bantam with White Evergreen and lacks quality altogether. The other was a chance find in a garden near Pittsburgh, Pa., and is excellent. New Burpee "beats" by a week Golden Bantam famed for its earliness.

Tendersweet Carrot "late early" in season combines precocity with long lasting qualities

Golden Wedding (Stumpp & Walter), with ears averaging eight inches and twelve rows or more, has found favor in several New York hotels whose guests looked for ears larger than Golden Bantam. Its flavor is quite delightful and the fact that the plants bear always two and sometimes three ears should without doubt insure its popularity with home gardeners.

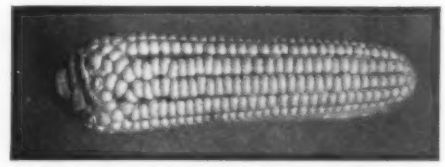
Years ago some seed houses listed a variety of Celery as Pink Plume. It was a rather weak grower, although very handsome in appearance and of fine quality. Then Golden Self Blanching invaded the field. Golden Plume and White Plume still further sidetracked the pink strain and it finally disappeared altogether from American seed catalogs.

It remained for Sutton's in England to develop further this particular pink strain. Anyone who saw the magnificent bunches at the National Garden Pageant at Atlantic

City last August, will agree that something near, if not quite, perfection has been reached. These are two varieties, both descending, no doubt, from the old London Red. Superb Pink is of most robust growth and in flavor comparable to our finest late Giant Pascal. Giant Red Celery, looked like huge bunches of Giant Crimson Rhubarb. They stood almost three feet high; uniformly solid, and crisp, and all this without sacrificing the superb, nutlike and extremely aromatic flavor.

From the Golden State hails a new Celery this year, Golden Detroit. To the credit of the originators they admit that its size varies under different climatic and soil conditions. Golden Detroit (Ferry-Morse) will ultimately supersede old Golden Self Blanching because it has none of the faults of that old stand-by, and many additional virtues. Broad, thick stems with well-rounded edges, crisp, brittle, free from stringiness and of excellent flavor summarizes the desirable characteristics of this newcomer.

Emerald Standing Spinach stands up well in lasting qualities in hot weather



The Burpee, a yellow Sweet Corn that combines a new standard of earliness with a full ear

THE home gardener may be divided into two types—one must have the earliest crops regardless of quality, while the other waits patiently for later varieties that have quality. Only rarely do we find a variety in which earliness is combined with real quality. And because of that Earligreen Celery (Stumpp & Walter) will be highly welcomed by the "hurry crop" group of gardeners. For an early variety it is surprisingly large; the heart is pure white, very brittle and of fine flavor. An "extra early" among the early Celeries.

Broccoli, or Green or Purple Sprouting Cauliflower (Schling), has been offered by American seedsmen for a generation, yet only during the last few years has it met with any appreciation on the part of American epicures. It has a peculiar blending of mild cauliflower and asparagus flavors.

For years Broccoli has been a favorite in England, France, and Italy; its increasing popularity on this side of the Atlantic must, in part at least, be credited to the Italian greengrocers. It is surely much easier to grow than Cauliflower and stands hot weather better.

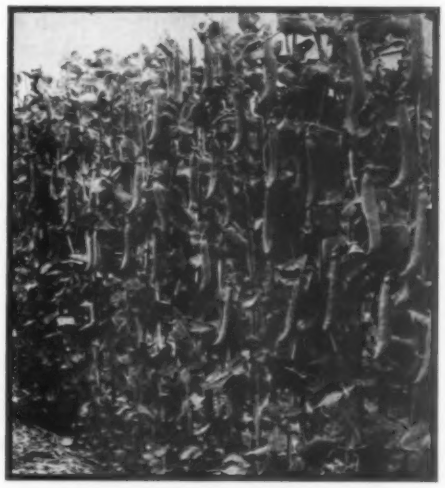
Fashion's phases may come and go but one there is which endures—love of large size! The fact that size and quality seldom go together, does not deter the vast majority of gardeners from making size the first requisite. And occasionally a grower has a lucky break and discovers a big variety where quality is not sacrificed as witness the New Silver-Flesh Giant Kohlrabi.

Mr. Average Home Gardener has been slow to appreciate this delectable vegetable. The trouble is that we do not gather the roots while still small enough. As with beets, the young kohlrabi should be picked while less than two inches in diameter, or woody fibre and a strong pungent flavor develop. This New Giant Silver-Flesh (Schling), however, remains in perfect condition even after developing to four inches in diameter and the bulbs are free of woody fibre at all stages.

A parallel to this is seen also in another root vegetable—Red Giant Radish (Burpee). All the extra early radishes become spongy after they pass the "half-inch diameter" size. Scarlet Globe behaves a little better; it is good up to one inch, on certain soils. The New Red Giant remains crisp and juicy up to the one and a half inch size, Nature having endorsed the enlarged waistline without sacrifice of palatability.

Red Giant Radish combines unusually well size, flavor, and long lasting quality

Golden Detroit Celery is very interesting for its improvements over older types



V. C., a newcomer among Peas that very obviously is in the forefront for large sized pods—eight inches long

And while root crops hold our attention the new Tendersweet Carrot (Henderson) deserves some comment. Only slightly later than the early varieties which quickly split or grow woody, Tendersweet brings long lasting quality. Flesh of fine texture combines with exceptional flavor and rich red color to make this one of the best all-round carrots for the home garden.

One of the most disheartening factors in gardening is when a green crop goes to seed before the housewife gets the full benefit. That is one reason why New Zealand Spinach is steadily gaining in popular favor. Yet, even at its best, this vegetable is insipid while the plants take up a lot of space all summer. Lovers of true Spinach will therefore welcome the variety Emerald Standing (Stumpp & Walter). This particular strain has to its credit that it "stands" in perfect shape fully a month longer than any other true Spinach. The thick, fleshy leaves are held well above the soil by the sturdy stems which, however, cook as tender as the leaves.

IT IS almost half a century now since C. N. Keeney "discovered" the parent plant of the original Stringless Green-Podded Bush Bean. Since then a score of additional stringless varieties have been produced. You may have stringless round podded and stringless flat podded kinds in various shades of green and yellow, maturing at different seasons. Among the semi-round wax-podded kinds, Golden Age (Henderson) stands out as a fine example of progress free from various defects common to the older varieties. It is an early and heavy cropper of positively stringless pods of a delightful golden yellow shade and good flavor.

A remarkable Pea is Sutton's V. C., said to be the largest podded pea in cultivation and looking as though it might really be so. Pods eight inches long holding a dozen large green peas of exceptional quality seem to be the rule rather than the exception in this variety. There again progress seems to have produced an unusual quality-quantity combination. Those who go in for competing at fairs and garden club shows will surely welcome these prize winners.

Your Garden Club

Keeping up with the times

by MARGARET WELLES SWIFT

THE fact is, of course, that your club does not differ from any other organization. To keep it "going" requires the application of the same principle that is required to keep any organization in a healthy condition. It must be made vital and worthwhile, and must have a dominant purpose for its inspiration.

When women's clubs first came into being, some sixty or more years ago, they were of two classes: suffrage clubs, working madly for so-called "woman's rights," and study clubs, which supplied the only means available to many women, for a higher education. This, remember, was long before our colleges were offering, through extension courses, an opportunity for adult education. Conditions change rapidly these days, however, and sorry the lot of him or her who does not change with them. Mechanical devices have lessened amazingly the labor in the home and we have reached a stage in our civilization, when we can legitimately demand beauty in our national life.

As women have found the care of the house less exacting, they have naturally turned their attention toward the development of the open space outside of the house. The garden gate has proved the gate to Paradise for more than one woman whose house had become a house of bondage. One neighbor chatted with another across the low fence which divided their lawns, exchanged "slips" and bulbs, discussed soil conditions and fertilizers, and finally evolved the idea of forming a garden club, for study and experiment along garden lines.

From such a casual beginning, has sprung the garden club movement, which is now sweeping the country like a mighty army, and is proving a steadying force in these turbulent times.

Keep your garden club alive. If there be none in your neighborhood, take steps to start one yourself. Mrs. Fred Joel Swift, of the National Council of State Garden Club Federations, has successfully aided other clubs and will gladly lend a helping hand to yours. There is no doubt as to the worthwhileness of the garden club movement. It has successfully passed its period of probation. It is recognized as a dignified, useful, and important factor in every community where it exists.

THE garden club is a woman's province, and it holds a unique position in every community. Having no axe to grind, it does not antagonize the politician, and its efforts to improve streets, beautify the grounds about hospitals and public buildings, remove unsightly billboards from scenic highways, meet with the hearty coöperation of everyone, except perhaps, the outdoor advertising companies.

The garden club should not be concerned with the social register, but should play an important rôle in the civic life of the community. The garden club whose excuse for existence is not "Service," spelled with a large "S," should not cumber the earth. A garden club is usually organized with such an immense capital of enthusiasm, most necessary, that it will "go" successfully for a year or two, on the momentum thus accumulated. The difficult period of it's life, comes after the first few years, when it has ceased to be a novelty, and has become a bit stale. Then it is that the guiding hand of the President must steady the ship. She it is, who must keep the eyes of her members fixed on the star of "Beauty," for the dissemination of beauty is in the last analysis (or should be) the dominant purpose of every garden club. "Where there is no vision, the nation perisheth," and the garden club that does not recognize the spiritual influence of the garden, is the club without a vision.

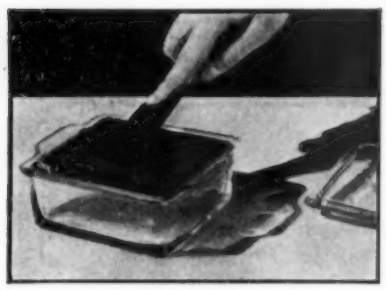
THE President holds the destinies of the club in the hollow of her hand, therefore choose her wisely. She need not necessarily be the best horticulturist in the club, but she must be a good executive, who understands the importance of keeping the members of her club inspired and interested. She must be "as wise as a serpent, and as harmless as a dove"; she must not attempt to do everything herself, but must learn the secret of keeping her members at work, and making them feel their responsibility. Women nowadays, are keenly alive to the value of time, and are willing to work untiringly and unceasingly if they can feel that their efforts are accomplishing worthwhile results.

A garden club cannot function successfully with its chief executive far from the scene of action. She must be on duty, every day of every week, during her term of office. Rotation in office is desirable, for two years of conscientious leadership is about all that the average woman can endure without jeopardizing her health. A sincere earnest President, who has gained the confidence of her members, will always be sure of loyal support. When interest in the club shows signs of lagging, the "wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove" President will suggest a new undertaking—a flower show, or something equally engrossing. She will find a place for every member, on some committee, if it is only on the telephone or typewriting squad.

A COUNTY fair will be found a very fertile field for usefulness. Most counties have huge fair buildings, and the committee in charge is only too glad when a garden club will consent to stage a flower show, or a conservation exhibit, during the week of the county fair. Artistic arrangements, and luncheon and dinner table decorations, are the most popular classes at the county fair flower show, and are educational as well. It is well within the province of the garden club, to teach adults, as well as children which of the wild flowers are protected by law in their state. This would naturally come under the conservation committee of the club. There can be a large poster in every village library, containing the text of the law, and pictures of the flowers so protected. (*Continued on page 245*)

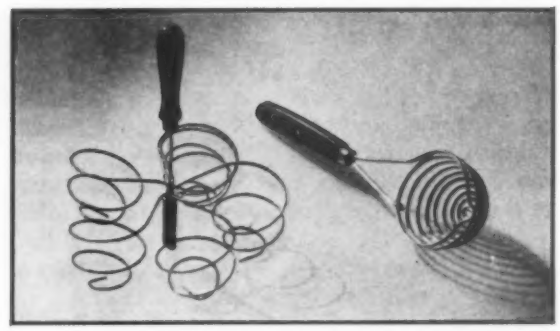
Devices for American Homes

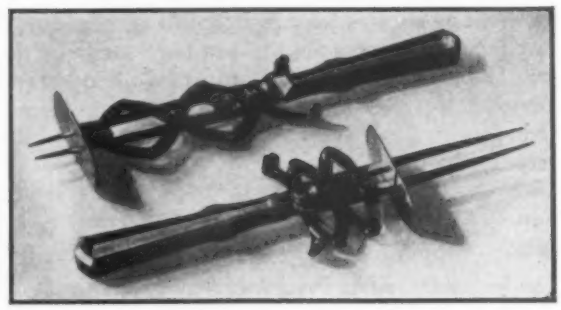
For January we are showing you a variety of new and useful gadgets for the home. Any article can be ordered by sending money order or check to the firm mentioned below. For any other information write Diana North.

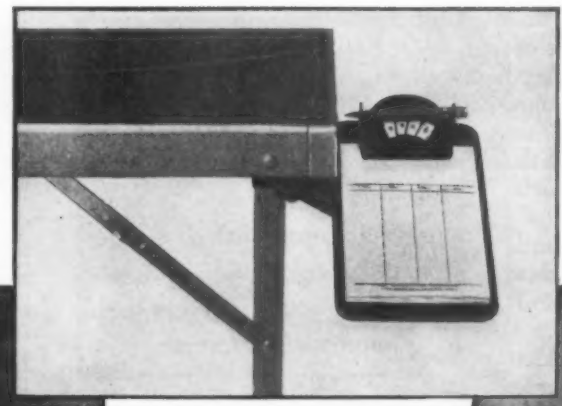


THE Baby-siv set pictured above is excellent for preparing purée of vegetables or fruits for the young child. Afterwards the glass-covered dish can be placed in the refrigerator, thereby keeping foods in a sanitary condition. Complete with stainless monel metal sieve, steel spatula, and glass-covered dish. Price $1.50 postpaid from W. G. Lemmon, Ltd., 820 Madison Avenue, N. Y. C.

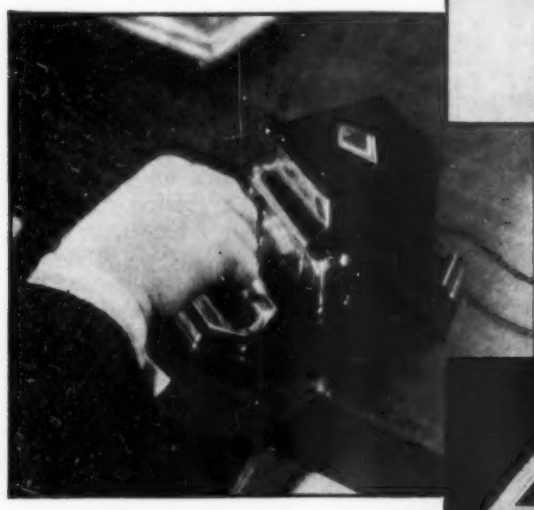
THE "No-touch" serving fork is shown in the middle above. It has been especially perfected for the sanitary serving of foods with one hand. Useful in the kitchen for hot potatoes, etc., as it picks up the food; then by simply pressing the levers on side, it will extend, ejecting the food on the plate. Price 69¢ from R. H. Macy & Co., Broadway & 34th Street, N. Y. C.







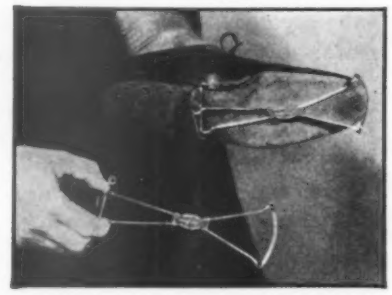
NEW hangers (*right*) especially meant for evening dresses or any other sleeveless dresses. The clips on the side prevent them from slipping off onto the floor. All pastel shades. Set of four $1.25 postpaid from Robert W. Kellogg, Springfield, Massachusetts



THE Sunbeam smokemaster is an electric cigarette lighter which serves an already lighted cigarette when one pushes in the little door in front. The cabinet is finished in bakelite and metal. Contains a snuffer and ash tray. Price $6.50 in chromium plate; $8.50 silver plated; $10.00 in gold plate. If your local dealer is unable to supply it order direct from Chicago Flexible Shaft Company, Roosevelt Road & Central Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

WITH the "Plant-i-dor," a miniature greenhouse, you can grow tropical plants, cactus, violets, and other small flowering plants, which ordinarily will not grow well in the home. Also can be obtained with steps for displaying plants in fancy pots. Attractively finished in almond green, frame made of red gulf cypress. Size 16½" wide, 24½" long, and 18" high. Price $12.00 each, express collect from Lewis & Conger, 78 West 45th Street, New York City.

THE egg holder illustrated at the left is for cooking five eggs at the same time, price 27¢. A useful device for separating the yolk from the white 23¢, both postpaid from R. H. Macy & Co., Broadway & 34th Street, New York City.



THE new Shu-saver is a skeleton metal tree which is placed on the back of the sole and keeps the shoe in perfect shape while not in use. Ideally light for traveling. Price $1.00 a pair—for men's shoes only, postpaid within 100 miles of New York, and to points beyond express collect. Hammacher, Schlemmer & Company, 145 East 57th Street, New York City.

AN IDEAL bridge prize (*left*) is this "Ace" card table bridge pad holder, as it holds a score pad and pencil *just below* table top level, thereby leaving table free for playing. Attached in a second by spring clamp; no screws or bolts. In red, green, or black finish. 50¢ each east of Rockies, 65¢ west of Rockies postpaid from Essential Products Company, 424 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

To Architects and Draughtsmen **To Our Readers**

Announcing a new

Home Building Contest

In which we ask the readers of The American Home to serve as judges

Description of the Contest

Supplementing The American Home Employment Plan, which was inaugurated and fully described in our November issue, the Editors announce a new type of home building contest. It is new and unusual in that we are asking the readers of THE AMERICAN HOME to act as the judges in making the awards.

The Award of Merit and $500 in cash will be given the architect whose design is voted best by readers of THE AMERICAN HOME. Second prize of $250 and third prize of $150 will be similarly awarded.

All entries must be in the office of THE AMERICAN HOME, Garden City, N. Y., on or before February 1, 1932.

1. The Editors will select from the numerous designs submitted twelve which seem to them to typify most nearly the ideals of THE AMERICAN HOME.

2. These twelve designs will be published, in groups of four, one design to a page, in three issues of the magazine. In a fourth issue the twelve houses will be published, together, and THE AMERICAN HOME readers will be asked to vote on the one of the twelve they like best.

3. The house receiving the most number of votes will win the Award of Merit, the next most popular one will win the second prize, and the one receiving the third largest number of votes will win the third prize.

4. The rights of reproduction to those of the twelve not receiving prizes will be purchased by THE AMERICAN HOME at our regular rates when the final awards are announced.

5. To increase the interest in the public choice and to add another degree of novelty to the contest, the Editors will invite five noted architects to form a jury and select one house from the twelve which they believe best upholds the great traditions of American domestic architecture. Their choice will be compared with our readers' choice, but no additional award will be made.

Conditions of the Contest

1. A rendered perspective at $\frac{1}{4}''$ scale, complete floor plans at $\frac{1}{8}''$ scale, and an estimate of cubage are required. The method of computing the cubage of the house shall be in accordance with document Number 239 of the American Institute of Architects which defines the cubage of a building as the actual cubic space enclosed within the outer surfaces of the outside or enclosing walls and contained between the outer surfaces of the roof and six inches below the finished surfaces of the lowest floors (basement floor in this case). This definition requires the cube of dormers, enclosed porches, and other enclosed appendages to be included as a part of the cube of the building. The cubage tabulation must be indicated in a small box. This is an absolute requirement and failure to indicate the true cubage will be considered sound cause for voiding the entry.

2. The drawing must be black and white, in ink or pencil; the plans must be in ink. They must both appear on the same sheet of drawing board, and the designs published on pages 211 to 214 of this issue illustrate the way they will be reproduced. As the reproductions of the twelve selected designs will be voted on by the readers, it would be well to look at a file of THE AMERICAN HOME to choose the type of drawing that is best for reproduction purposes.

3. To insure anonymity the entry must be marked with a symbol. This symbol must be put on a sealed envelope within which is the architect's name and address. These will be opened by the Editors, in the presence of witnesses, when the twelve winners are selected.

4. A contestant may submit more than one entry.

5. Each entry is sent at the designer's risk. THE AMERICAN HOME will not be liable for any damage or loss in transit.

6. No entry which has been published previously, either in THE AMERICAN HOME or elsewhere, will be considered.

Specifications for the American Home

1. The house, including garage, must contain not more than 30,000 cubic feet.

2. Any building material may be used.

3. No limit will be put on the number of rooms, but the most popular American homes are those which contain a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, and an attached garage. An additional sunporch, an extra room and bath, a garage for two cars instead of one are desirable features if they can be incorporated without injuring the design.

4. A central heating plant must be included.

5. The lot is perfectly level, of average suburban size.

6. The house must not be limited to use on a corner lot.

7. The suggested points of the compass must be indicated, and a plot plan is desirable.

The Closing Date

The contest will close at 5 P. M., February 1, 1932. Address all entries to The American Home Architectural Contest, Garden City, N. Y. The Editors cannot enter into any correspondence regarding rejected designs, which will be returned in due course.

COLDS?

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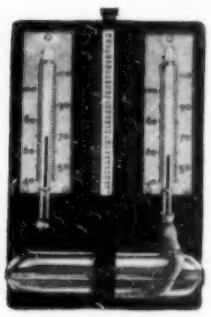

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HELPFUL BOOKLETS

ARE YOU faced with some problem in constructing, remodeling, furnishing, or equipping your home? There are many helpful ideas and suggestions contained in the literature of reputable manufacturers.

Read the advertisements in this issue carefully and request literature direct from the advertiser wherever possible. Then, if you do not find what you are looking for, scan this list.

THE AMERICAN HOME acts as a clearing house between reader and manufacturer. You can order the booklets you wish on the coupon at the bottom of page 231. We will forward your name and address to the manufacturers involved, and they will send their literature direct to you.

—HEARTHSTONE EDITOR

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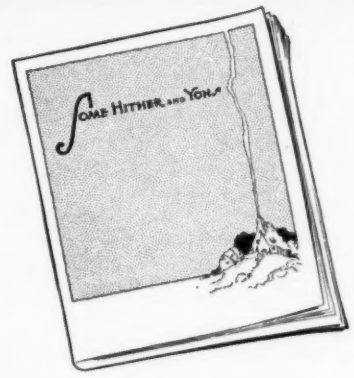

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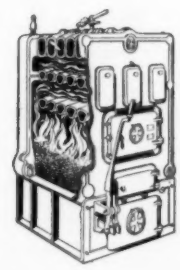

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Bargains in building

Continued from page 203

Financing, in the immediate future, will probably continue as at present. The $500,000,000 bank pool suggested by President Hoover and the proposed central mortgage bank may lift some of the anxiety from the worried bankers and make financing easier, but it is difficult to believe that the relief will be rapid. Possibly after we have attended Mr. Hoover's conference in Washington in December we shall have better financing news for our next article.

In the immediate future, as in the present and in the immediate past, some good Americans will build. And "good Americans" is not a limiting term. A conservative estimate puts the amount to be spent for residential construction in the year October 1931 to October 1932 at $1,200,000,000. Of course this is far below the amount commonly expended in good times, but at the same time it represents the investments of a good many men and women. These "courageous" people will make investments that will repay them, that will help their communities and that will in the final analysis start America on the return road to prosperity. They are wise for themselves and for their country.

The advantages of building now, beside putting dollars to work to drive away depression, are that you will get the very lowest prices for materials and construction. It may be that you think building prices will continue at the present low levels. You should remember that the great building boom of 1922 and 1923, the greatest in the world's history, followed directly on the heels of the depression of 1921,and prices soared.

He who builds now will get not only the lowest prices but the best workmanship. The pinch of unemployment has brought out all the ability latent in our erstwhile diffident building mechanics. They lay more bricks and lay them better and they hang more wallpaper and hang it better than ever before. And equipment, like oil burners and gas ranges, plumbing fixtures and boilers, are at new lows, just like stocks.

The present conservative financing policies insure your investment. If you can get a hard-headed banker who has weathered this depression storm to OK your mortgage you may be sure that you are treading on safe ground. How you can convince him of the soundness of your venture will be told further on.

We advocate building now. Not only because we believe i this country and believe that a building revival would do the most to drag us out of the slump, but because we honestly believe that you will get the best value now for your money and that while you are enjoying the pleasures of a home of your own in these grim times you may, if you like, reap the profits of your enterprise when times improve.

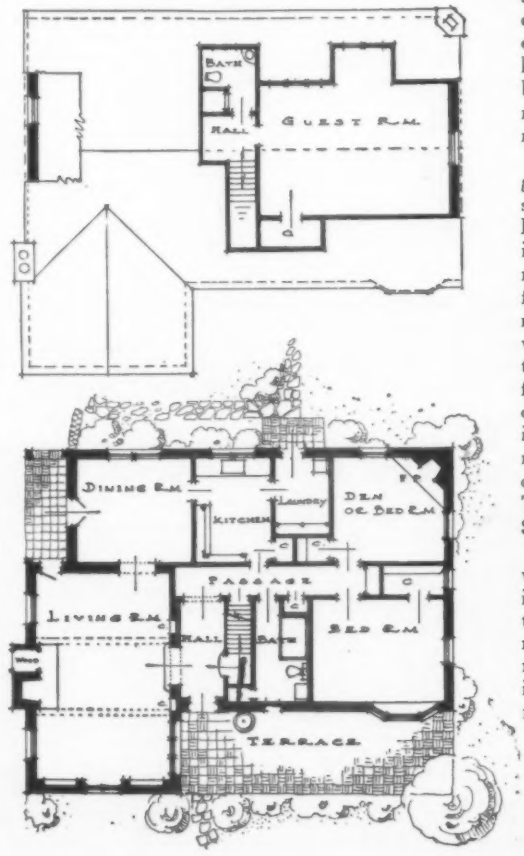
Any studied consideration of the future supports our belief that a building investment now is not unwise.

In the first place good real estate will increase in value. It always has. William A. Bond, of William A. Bond & Company, Chicago, quotes the following instance, one of many which could be educed. Ten Chicago lots were bought at $600. They were sold in 1905 for $2,000. In 1908 they were sold for $29,000. In 1925 they sold for $79,500. The period of these transactions covered the depressions of 1907, 1914, and 1921.

There is at this time a growing building shortage. Building has been declining since 1925 and yet the natural forces that make for new building have been constant: population shifts and increases, a million marriages a year, and property depreciation and obsolescence. When the long delayed building boom comes it will grow rapidly and prices will rise at like speed.

A well-built house of good design, in a restricted neighborhood, has always been a good investment. I have in mind one built in 1910 for $21,000. Although not a very big house it was designed by one of the best architectural firms in Boston. The design was so good that it might be copied for a new house in this hypercritical day and age. This house sold for $42,000 in 1924.

Of equal importance with good design is quality workmanship and the use of up-to-date materials and equipment. Improvements in small house equipment come so rapidly



The floor plans in Mr. Collins' house are as well thought out as is the design of the exterior

Bargains in building

nowadays that a new house must contain the very latest devices or be outdated before it is five years old.

For instance, one of the best architects in Chicago told me after reading the air conditioning article in THE AMERICAN HOME for November that in ten years all new houses, small or large, would have some system of air conditioning or humidification in them. Such a system must be planned for in your new house. Other equipment which the 1940 house will have includes automatic fuel feeds, either oil burners, gas burners or coal stokers; insulation against both heat and sound; improved wall finishes such as tiles, linoleum, washable wall coverings, etc.; numerous electric, radio and telephone outlets; gas or electric ranges; sound, durable floors; crackless walls; and it will have efficient, economical floor plans providing space for the housing of two or more cars.

If you will see that your house is well designed, well built and well equipped, you will not find present financing methods overly difficult. Any banker or financing institution would find a mortgage on such a house a good risk.

My pine-panelled room

Continued from page 208

The contractor began patiently to explain to me why my idea was entirely impractical.

He was, of course, accustomed to following the beaten path and I think he honestly believed me slightly insane with my talk of knotty pine, of heavy pine beams, and wide oak floor boards put down with pegs. But as the house became more than a shell I saw in that living room, a room patterned for gracious living, a room apart from its conventional, stereotyped neighbors; a room warm, mellowed, sturdy and unpretentious, a home for active youngsters, a fitting background for my old bitters bottles.

The problem of furnishing the living room had been from the first a very real one. I felt that I knew how to do so correctly if I had the means, but we had gone rather heavily in debt for the house and there was very little left for new furniture. With a heavy heart I took stock of the unrelated and none too attractive mixture of pieces we had accumulated.

The kaltex and tapestry divan and chair were impossible; but they were good, strong, comfortable pieces and must serve. Another chair, a massive thing, was a luxurious seat but entirely out of the picture in its covering of blue mohair.

I felt that the ideal floor covering for the living room would be a large hand-hooked rug but, finding the price of that prohibitive, I took the nine by twelve taupe broadloom which had been our dining room rug and placed it in the center of the floor. I then bought three small hand-hooked rugs—an oval and two oblongs, very lovely as to color and design—and placed one in front of the fireplace, one between the living and dining rooms, and one in the entrance to the book alcove.

Over the problem of draperies I shed furtive tears. In the drapery section of a department store in a neighboring city I found the hand-blocked linens so fitting, so exactly what *should* hang at the windows that I could hardly resist them. But having hurriedly reckoned the staggering total of thirty yards at ten dollars a yard I resolutely turned my back on temptation. In one of our own stores I found a bolt of heavy sunfast and tubfast cretonne in a large, sprawly crewel design worked out in browns, tans, and burnt orange on a creamy background. This material I had made into curtains, lined with cream satine, hung, full and very long, just clearing the floor, from poles with spool ends, finished in the same mellow brown of the panelling. The unexpected perfection of these curtains gave me an idea and the big blue mohair chair became appropriate and harmonious in a slip cover of the same material.

Two other chairs—a walnut Windsor and one of the less offensive "occasionals"—we decided must serve as they were. Likewise a walnut gate-leg table, when covered with a scarf woven in the Kentucky mountains was not a jarring note.

On one of his field trips my husband found an old walnut sugar chest which he bought for a song, brought home in the back of his car among rocks, barometers, and stadia rods, the signs and symbols of his profession, and refinished himself. An old walnut chest of drawers, which we had had for some time without finding a place for, exactly fitted into the wall space between two doors. It was in dire need of refinishing and I took it to an old cabinetmaker for this service. In the small, poorly equipped workroom of this old man were made the only two new pieces we bought for the living room. He followed my rather sketchy designs with consummate skill and understanding and the sturdy fireside bench and convenient drop-leaf table, both made of pine, stained and waxed, add immeasurably to the comfort and atmosphere of the room.

The finishing touches in decoration—lamps, pictures, cushions—were finally arranged to our partial satisfaction although we could not and did not allow ourselves any reckless expenditures. Fortunately our taste in pictures had been on a rather higher plane than in furniture so we had little to discard there. And the mellow walls seemed to welcome and fairly enfold the pictures hung upon them.

Whenever possible I used the lamp bases we already had but without a tremor I scrapped the garish silk shades and substituted simple ones of parchment.

From a passing pedler's wagon I purchased a large hand-woven basket for logs and in the back of a hardware store I unearthed a pair of cast-iron fire dogs which staunchly support the heavy logs we burn in the wide fireplace.

When everything was in place to the last book-end and the current magazines on the tables I triumphantly produced my bitters bottles, polished and gleaming, and placed them on the mantel shelf, flanking a colorful Medici print.

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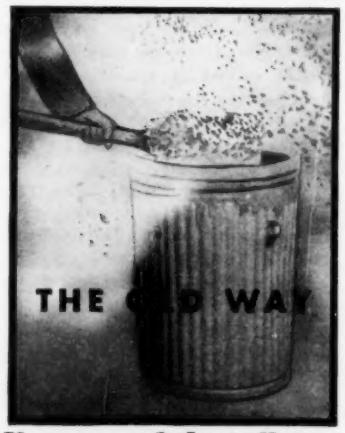

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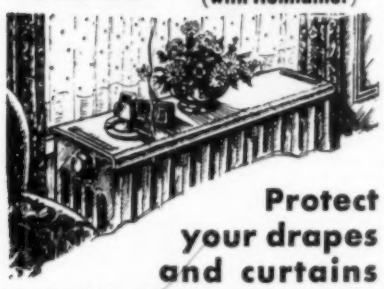

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STERLING HOMES HAVE STYLE

A Colonial home that went West

Continued from page 201

old-time tavern table, with tin dishes and a red and white tablecloth and napkins? Such gay informality prevails in the Cabin, and makes it a popular spot and one of which its habitués never tire.

It would be unfair not to tell you a little about the bedrooms since they are gay and cheerful and are quaintly furnished fully in keeping with the atmosphere of the house. One has walls covered with a gay chintzy paper set off by curtains of plain rose sateen, while another shows walls of plain blue with curtains of rosy chintz. The rooms upstairs, like the hall and the rest of the house, display many of Mrs. Ranney's hooked rugs for her collection numbers over forty in all shapes and sizes. It is indeed interesting to study them for each one is a revealing study in personality like all articles of handwork. One which is a special favorite of mine, lies before the davenport in the living room, and, aside from its intricate pattern of naïve flowers and leaves, has the signature of the maker, "Lucy Clifford" worked right across it. All the rugs show the beauty of age, and are fabricated in those soft tones of rose, taupe, blue, fawns, and varied greens which "grow lovely growing old."

As we leave we notice the front door, true to its Dutch origin and hospitably open in its upper part that the guest approaching may feel the cordiality of his welcome, and that a vista of trees and sky may be brought into the house. This lovely vista is engagingly framed in the architectural setting of the doorframe which has a background of quaint wallpaper whose classic design shows grapes and a graceful urn. Here are also more pieces of antique furniture, and several soft-toned hooked rugs. Truly this is a home of charm and unusual atmosphere all due to the knowledge and appreciation of rare things on the part of its owners.

The American Home Employment Plan

Continued from page 216

wall areas for modern types of cupboards, cabinets, and built-in work tops. Standardized units of many kinds are available for this purpose both in wood and in metal. They include the modern fitted kitchen cabinet which is portable, as well as similarly fitted units that are built permanently into the structure. If these are not adaptable to your needs, your local carpenter or woodworking mill can make them to your order. Consult manufacturers of standardized units for design suggestions and your mill for prices on these units or special custom-built cabinets. Also consider use of modern enameled, metal, linoleum, or other composition work tops made for this purpose.

46. Relocate or replace radiators in one or more rooms. Have you any radiators that take up wall space just where you want to place furniture? Or are your radiators of obsolete or ugly design? Consult your plumbing contractor about relocating or replacing the radiators which do not fit into your plans. Also consider installation of radiator covers of standard or custom-built type.

47. Install movable disappearing stairway to attic for space economy or access. Attic stairs frequently occupy a great deal of room that could better be used for closets. At the same time many attics are not provided with access stairs except those of exceedingly cramped and dangerous type. Both of these problems can be solved by installing movable disappearing stairs in the ceiling of a hallway or of some second story bedroom. These units form an unobtrusive panel in the ceiling when closed. When drawn down, they provide a strong and safe stairway for temporary use. They are usually supplied through lumber or millwork dealers and can be installed by your carpenter who will also convert the space saved into useful closets or other service areas.

59. Have wiring system checked over for compliance with insurance requirements. Unauthorized or sub-standard connections may void your insurance protection if discovered following a fire loss. Many times additions are made to electrical systems that do not meet the regulations of the National Electric Code or of local building bureaus. Your fire insurance policy usually contains a clause that makes your protection valueless if such conditions exist in your house. Employ an electrician to check over your entire system for compliance with these regulations and have the necessary improvements made for your own protection.

60. Modernize lighting system—relocate fixtures, substitute wall brackets for chandeliers, provide new fixtures. There is no good reason for putting up with obsolete lighting when fixtures and outlets can be rearranged or installed so readily and at such low cost without marring walls, ceilings or floors. Where possible, have these changes made before redecorating any room. Usually, however, your electrician can make the changes without injury to existing decorations. Consult him regarding cost of changes.

61. Install extra electrical outlets to eliminate or reduce the need for long fixture cords. The extensive use of local lighting in the form of table lamps and portable floor lamps has made old standards of electrical convenience quite obsolete to-day. Convenience outlets are required at much closer intervals than formerly. You can eliminate the need for these long and troublesome fixture cords by having extra outlets installed in every room. The work does not necessarily imply injury to existing decorations. Consult your electrician.

62. Install wall switch at entrances to eliminate pull cords. If your lighting fixtures are operated by the old-fashioned pull cord which is so difficult to find at night, consider the installation of modern switch controls at the entrance of each room. The cost is relatively low and the convenience is very great. Consult your electrician for estimates.

65. Install pilot light on cellar, laundry, or garage switches. How often have you risen in the night to turn off neglected lights in the cellar or to find out if you inadvertently left the electric flat iron turned on? Pilot lights in the switch plates controlling these often neglected circuits will flash their warning every time you pass them. New switch plates with pilot lights can be installed in place of existing switches at very low cost. Furthermore, a new type of plate has recently been introduced using a diminutive white Neon lamp that can burn continuously at a cost of only a few cents a year to make every switch in your home visible in the dark. Consult your electrician.

66. Install night lights or bed lights in bedroom with switch at bed side. Here is a convenience every member of the family will appreciate. A switch at the bed side enables you to control instantly the lighting of the room. Or you can have a night light employing a small blue globe that lights the room dimly without eye strain when you awake in the night, and that enables you to see the clock or to see the entire room clearly. Such lights should also be installed in the nursery and in halls or bathrooms for all-night lighting that costs very little. A similar convenience can be secured by installing a light beneath the bed, not for the purpose of helping you find burglars but to permit soft illumination of the entire room without eye strain. This is particularly useful in the nursery.

67. Eliminate batteries on bell call or annunciator system by installing small power transformer. The old dry cell or wet battery is obsolete in most homes, but if you have not abandoned its use, have your electrician install a bell ringing transformer on your regular lighting circuit. It uses an infinitely small amount of current and forever banishes the nuisance of batteries. In connection with this improvement, consider the installation of the very new lighted door number. It takes the place of the ordinary front door push button and consists of a rustproof metal box with changeable numbers on the face, behind which is a small electric light that burns continuously on the low voltage circuit that operates the bell. At night your number is visible from the street. No new wiring is required. When a visitor uses the new push button the light momentarily goes out.

68. Provide low voltage current in playroom for operating electric trains and other toys. The bell-ringing transformer mentioned above will also operate modern electric trains and toys with a current that is entirely safe for children to play with. You can provide this current either by installing such a transformer in the playroom on one of the regular electrical outlets or your electrician can carry wires from the transformer that supplies your bells to a special outlet in the playroom which the children can use safely.

The American Home Employment Plan

CHECK LIST

Reprints of this check list in page form may be secured at cost from THE AMERICAN HOME, Garden City, N. Y. Single copies, 2 cents for return postage; 10 copies, 16 cents; 100 copies, $1.50; 1,000 copies, $14.50; 5,000 copies, $33.50; 10,000 copies, $53.00.

Read this list through for improvements that fit your home; then consult your local unemployment committee for men competent to submit estimates and perform the work. Be sure to carry out the improvements you want this winter while men are in dire need of work. Twenty items are discussed in detail in each issue. The letters after various items indicate the month in which these items were discussed.

1. Develop basement playroom. D.
2. Install cedar lining in one or more existing closets. D.
3. Repair or replace gutters, leaders, or flashings. N.
4. Install dormer window or skylight to make attic space useful. N.
5. Repair existing roof; restain or apply preservative to wood shingles; repaint canvas roofs; stop leaks. N.
6. Reroof with wood, asphalt, asbestos or metal shingles, slate, clay tile, or metal. N.
7. Repair or replace hardware; correct sagging doors or defective windows.
8. Install a package receiver.
9. Convert coal-fired boiler or furnace to burn low-cost pea coal.
10. Apply asbestos or other heat insulating covering on pipes and boiler to reduce waste of fuel.
11. Reconstruct and straighten warped chimneys, add chimney pots, repair joints to improve draft. N.
12. Construct new outside chimney for new fireplaces. N.
13. Clean chimney flues; clean out ash pits, repair flue connection; reset furnace. N.
14. Install an incinerator.
15. Modernize exterior of house by applying shingles, brick facing, stucco, etc., over present exterior. N.
16. Repair porch railings, floors, steps, etc.
17. Add new porch or enclose existing porch with glass to make new sunroom. N.
18. Construct new removable winter vestibules for exposed doors. N.
19. Build portable screen enclosure for open porch for summer use.
20. Prepare window and door screens for next season's use, including rewiring and repainting. Also consider installation of new screening of modern type.
21. Install full-length mirrors on bedroom doors. D.
22. Install modern closet fittings, such as shoe racks, clothes hangers, linen shelves, storage drawers, etc. D.
23. Install booster fan on warm air pipe leading to underheated room.
24. Correct the heating of a cold room.
25. Repaint exterior of house in fall while weather permits. N.
26. Modernize floor plan of house by combining two rooms in one, changing or removing partitions, etc.
27. Convert large closet into an extra toilet or shower room. D.
28. Provide extra bedroom by subdividing large room, by using waste space in attic, or by addition.
29. Install wash basin in bedroom. D.
30. Install door bed in sewing room, library, or other extra room (having a closet) to make it a convertible bedroom for occasional guests.
31. Enlarge existing garage or build new garage. N.
32. Remove dead wood from trees and shrubs and have tree surgeon repair decayed parts of important trees.
33. Reconstruct dry-wells; carry drainage from leaders further from foundation; or apply waterproof membrane around exterior of basement walls before ground freezes (to forestall flooded cellars in spring where conditions indicate need). N.
34. Modernize existing bathroom —new wall treatments, flooring, fixtures, medicine cabinet, etc. D.
35. Build new closets.
36. Provide outside accessories such as window boxes, trellises, bird houses, etc., ready for use in spring.
37. Erect new fences, gates, arbors, pergolas and other garden structures.
38. Construct concrete, stone or brick walks, terrace, or steps. N.
39. Conceal all radio wiring, including aerial and ground wires. D.
40. Install new concealed radio wiring to permit use of extension speakers in bedrooms, dining room, or attic or basement recreation room. (Note: The average standard commercial receiver will operate from two to ten reproducers, permitting use of radio in any part of the house without moving the receiver). D.
41. nstall remote control for radio receiver, built-in speakers, etc. D.
42. Modernize the kitchen arrangement for more efficient work.
43. Build breakfast nook in unused part of kitchen or pantry, or build new breakfast porch.
44. Install new kitchen or pantry cupboards and closets or modernize storage space.
45. Install oil burner, automatic stoker (coal or coke), or gas burner in heating plant. D.
46. Relocate or replace radiators.
47. Install movable disappearing stairway for space economy.
48. Convert warm air heating plant to modern forced circulation system with humidification. N.
49. Convert one-pipe steam heating system to vapor-vacuum system for more uniform heating and fuel economy. N.
50. Improve operation and efficiency of two-pipe steam, vapor, or hot-water system. N.
51. Install high-efficiency boiler, furnace, or air conditioning heater. N.
52. Replace common glass with ultra-violet ray (health) glass in nursery, sunporch, or all windows. D.
53. Install modern thermostat. D.
54. Install air-moistening (humidifying) equipment to create more healthful conditions (now possible with any type of heating system). D.
55. Weatherstrip doors and windows. N.
56. New storm sash or double windows for exposed rooms. N.
57. Install fuel lift from basement wood pile to near fireplace in living or dining room. D.
58. Install an invalid's elevator to give greater (*Continued on page 241*)

A little house that looks at the dawn

Continued from page 221

who served many years as a missionary among the Negroes with an understanding that has come down as a heritage to his famous great grandson.

One whole wall of the living room is lined with bookshelves, and the books overflow onto the tables, the deep wing chairs, and the mantel. If it is summer, the French doors are opened onto the porch. Above this porch is another one in the manner of houses in the owner's native city of Charleston, South Carolina. For Mr. Heyward contends no New England Colonial house would have an upstairs porch, and yet, he contends further, no Charleston house would be without one.

The grounds immediately surrounding the house have been made into two formal gardens, one terraced above the other. The upper terrace is on a level with the house, and is surrounded by a low stone coping that is fast covering itself with ivy, and encircled by hydrangea bushes. The Heywards' taste in flowers is as old-fashioned as the traditions of the South, and at the lower end of the terrace, in full view of both porches, are two scallops on the garden picture in its frame of hydrangeas. On one corner, a beautiful old evergreen, perhaps twenty feet in height, rises from the lower terrace and makes a background for a stone garden seat and bird bath. And complementing it on the other corner is a bed of perennials—the old-fashioned foxglove, larkspur, and Canterbury bell.

But there are sixteen acres of this "illusion of an estate," and the remainder is the private property of Dorothy Heyward, the playwright, and Du Bose Heyward, the author. Down the hill and through the apple trees at the back of the house, every morning at nine o'clock they take their way across a rustic bridge over a tiny, clear-running mountain stream, and through a grove of pine trees so close together that their tops make a canopy overhead and their needles make a crunchy and fragrant carpet underfoot, to their studios.

These they have built far apart, and each after an individual taste. Small, both of them, with fireplaces that they may work there through winter months. Each must have quiet. And they declare that they spoil themselves outrageously, for never a disturbing sound comes to their workshops, never a noise save the whispering of the wind through the pines, and the gurgling of the mountain brook. No one has ever been allowed in these woods during the working hours that last until lunch time. And very few are ever allowed the privilege of entering this sanctuary of their work.

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Pittsburgh, 319 Fifth | **Minneapolis,** 512 Nicollet
Detroit, 35 E. Grand River | **San Francisco,** 200 Davis

© O. R. C., 1932

Shop Windows *of* To-day

by DIANA NORTH

THE circus comes to town but once a year but any child would delight in having a tiny one of his own as the amusing set shown at right. It includes all of the more important performers "under the big top"—clowns, ring master, wild animals, etc. Each figure measures about two inches in height and is realistically colored. The set complete costs but $1.00 postpaid anywhere in the U. S. A., from F. B. ACKERMANN, *50 Union Square, New York City.*

No doubt, it is a great luxury to have an electric alarm clock but when you can obtain such a smart, good-looking model as the one pictured below, there really is no reason for not indulging oneself. It is called the Telalarm and is made by the Warren Telechron Company. This model has the unique feature of lighting its own dial from within! For alternating current only. Price $9.95 postpaid up to the Mississippi; otherwise express collect from OVINGTON BROS., *39th Street & Fifth Avenue, New York City.*

What could be gayer for breakfast time than this Italian Carretino earthen ware decorated with colorful and quaint Italian wine carts that one still sees around the streets of Rome? The plates are 7½ inches in diameter and are just the right size for either breakfast, tea-time, or for use as salad plates. Price $12.00 a dozen. The sugar bowl and cream pitcher make an attractive ensemble—the pitcher costs only $1.50 and the bowl is priced at $2.00, all postpaid from CARBONE, *367 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.*

ELEVEN-PIECE BERRY SET
FROM OLD ITALY

Gayly informal is this colorful berry service of genuine Pordenone pottery. It bears a distinctive Chanticleer pattern, surmounting a red wreath design. Set contains eight berry dishes, bowl, cream pitcher and sugar bowl. $3.50, delivered. Send check or money order—no stamps.

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This beautifully designed dish makes a delightful gift for yourself or for another. It is of the new smart combination of metals — copper and pewter, 6½ inches tall — 7¾ wide. A typical example of CarrCraft's skill in designing and in handicraft.

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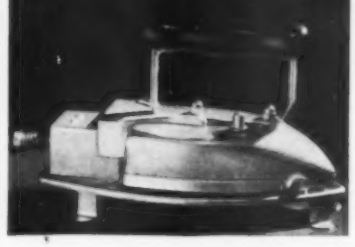
GIFTS OF CHARACTER IN METAL

SAFETY GRANT CORDLESS
ELECTRIC IRON



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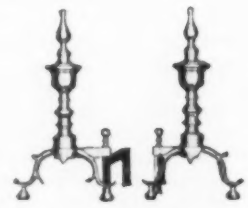

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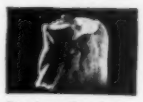

Book end-ash receiver 5½ in. high $10.

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Colonial brass sconce 10¼" long

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1 light $2.50 pair

3 lights $3.75 pair

Brass candle holder 5½" high

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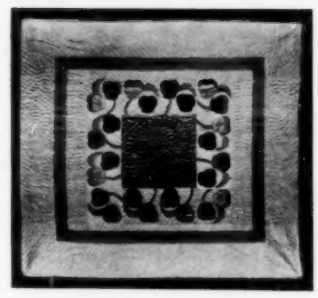
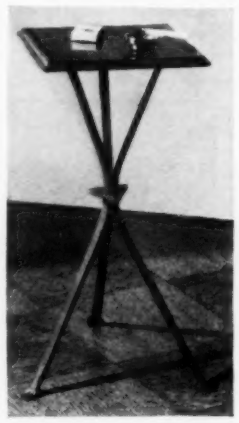
making a garden with practically no space at all?

Flower borders for little plots, the small garden well done, a garden on $25—no end of help and suggestions for you in every issue of *The American Home*. $1 a year. Address, Garden City, N. Y.

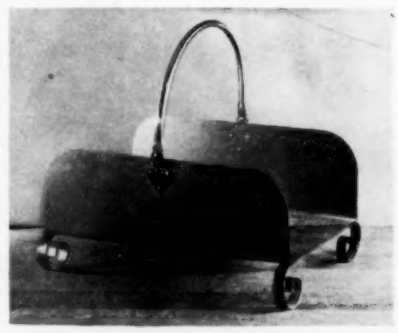


Why not make yourself an unusual quilt? It is really very simple, as it is made of only twelve blocks, each twelve inches square. It is developed in the triad scheme—two tones of orchid, two of orange, and a soft green, which also makes the center square, an outer band and bindery, with the remainder of white. Size of finished quilt 72 x 84 inches. The material assortment of 4½ yards of white, 2½ yards of green, and ⅓ each of the four other colors, in fine weave and all fast color percale (#660A) costs $3.35 or in softest sheen satin (#660B) price $5.00. Pattern alone 25¢ or perforated patterns of any one quilting design for same price. McKim Studios, *Independence, Missouri.*



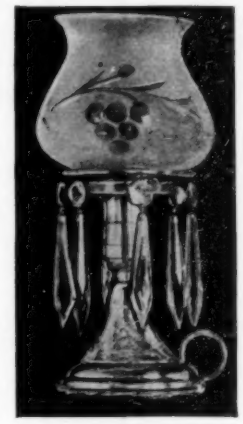
Very smart is this small but handy table which is made of wrought iron, with a jet black glass top. It measures 18 inches high and the top is 9 inches square. Price $1.95 each or two for $3.65 postpaid from Chateau Glasscraft, Inc., *Point Marion, Pennsylvania.*

We noticed especially this very useful wood basket in Brasstown. It is made of black iron



with brass handle and has unusual feet. Price only $6.50 express collect from Hyman Tuttman, *103 Allen Street, New York City.*

The sewing basket pictured just below comes in the most delectable colors and with a black, Scottie silhouetted on one side. In yellow bound with orange, pale green, rose, orchid, and blue all bound with self color, while gay cretonne lines the interior, with pockets for sewing materials, only $1.00; in red, green, blue, brown, or black suede cloth lined with gold or silver and with silver or gold Scottie, $1.50; all postpaid anywhere in U. S. A., from Lord & Taylor, *Fifth Avenue and 38th Street, New York City.*



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Write for catalogue and free cellophane-wrapped samples of down, half-down and feathers; sent with samples of sateen quilt covering.

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In *and* About *the* Garden

Edward Farrow

THANKS again to those among the interested readers of these pages who from time to time by the way of the photographic camera take me into the friendship of their gardens—a privilege that is the more gratefully received as it bears testimony to the far reaching lines of THE AMERICAN HOME. This month a trio of gardens in the West is presented.

TERRACES IN IOWA

"I am proud of my garden because I did it myself with the help of THE AMERICAN HOME and books. The site necessitated terraces in the rear. I never want a level yard again, although the terraces entail more work. The yard is seventy-five by one hundred and fifty feet. The area near the back door was latticed on both sides, and hooks put on, forming a service yard when needed. At other times it is our rose garden. Roses on the wall and trellises and in the garden around, make a private cozy corner. On the other side of the house is a pool. Our planting was not all done the first year, but gradually as we studied the yard and improved it.

"I have a nice pleasant feeling every morning as I look over my yard, not because it is the most beautiful yard there is, but because it is good and a hard job done well, or so I think."

—Mrs. R. B. Gilmour, Sioux City, Iowa

SPARE MOMENTS IN NEBRASKA

"This is work we have done in our spare moments. We have tried to build as nearly toward rustic effects as possible and were we to do it over again would only use one kind of rock rather than a collection such as we have gathered. One always has a feeling that it is not just the way nature intended it to be when you have so many different varieties.

"I am indebted for some of the ideas to your magazine which has helped me a lot in formulating plans for this project. The thought I had in mind in mailing these views was that maybe someone could use some portion of an idea for his future pool and garden."

—T. O. Raasch, Kearney, Nebr.

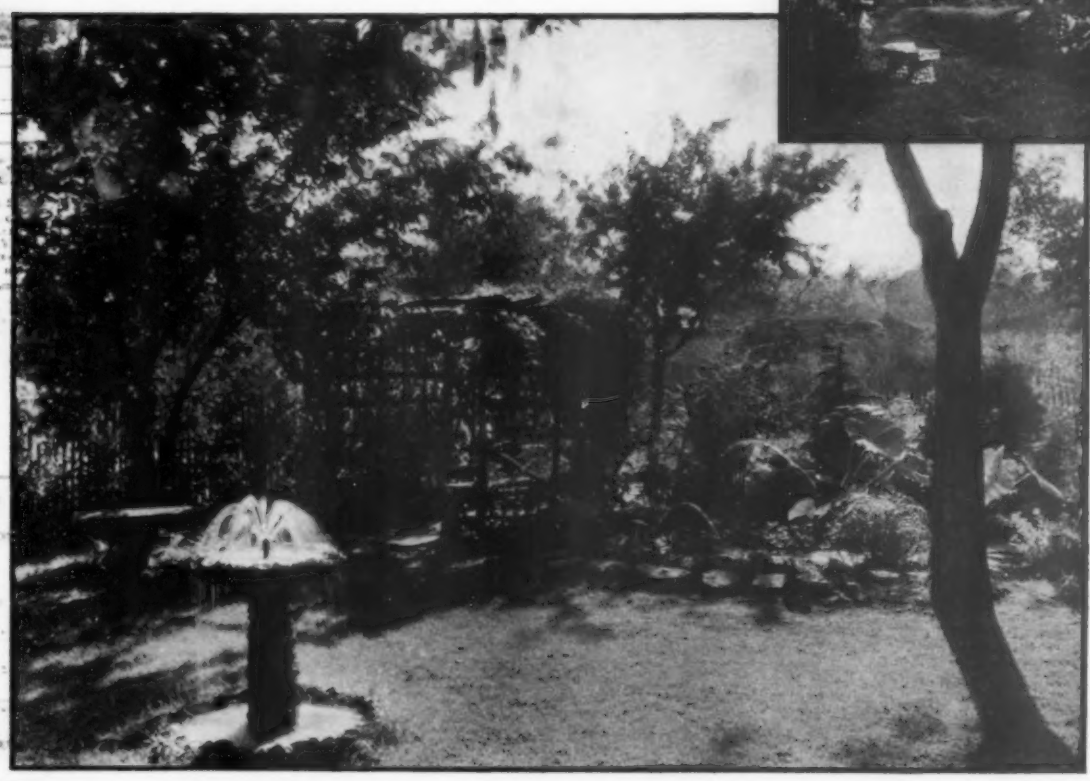
A PRIZE WINNER IN ILLINOIS

"On only a 50 x 100 ft. city lot, but our garden was a prize winner in the local Better Garden Contest. It was just a sand pit only a year or two ago, but now by careful planning and planting we have a yard to be proud of. The contours of the plot called for special treatment and the face of the terraced lawn was taken for the rock garden feature that we simply had to have. A fill of two hundred loads of good loam was necessary for a fill to get the desired grade. And now we have Rose covered arbors, bird bath, Grapes, flowers all summer for indoor use, and a respectable lawn."

—Mrs. Harry F. Smith, Decatur, Ill.

Mrs. Gilmore's terraced garden in Iowa, enclosed by hedges of Berberis, Bridalwreath, and Lilacs. Irises adorn the highest terrace

In this Illinois garden Mrs. Harry F. Smith found space for a rock garden by using the face of the terraced lawn. This reduced the mowing problem



And in Nebraska a reposeful corner designed in rustic effects, with charming informal harmony of the parts

Here it is—the NEW "Book for Garden Lovers"

The first sign of Spring is Schling's great garden guide for 1932! Brimful of the latest and most charming flower novelties as well as many specialties exclusive with Schling. Richly illustrated with hundreds of fine photographs, many of them in full color, and bound in an attractive cover also in colors. Truly a book for us to be proud of and for you, a veritable treasure-house of garden lore!

SEND TODAY for this glorious flower annual—Mailed for 35 cents in stamps which may be deducted from first order.

3 Great Schling Novelties!

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Tithonia—the golden flower of the Incas — First seen by white men four centuries ago when Pizarro entered Peru. Rediscovered in Mexico in the 18th century only to be lost again, it is now our great pride to *again* introduce this magnificent, exotic, *true* flower of history and romance!

Imagine a full foliaged shrub-like plant standing 8 to 10 feet tall and 3 feet wide with broad, deeply indented leaves like those of the grape or fig tree and covered with blossoms like single Dahlias of the most brilliant orange-scarlet with tufted centers of gold intermingled with black. Splendid for a quick hedge or tall background. Easily grown from seed. Blooms in late Summer or early Autumn. **Packet, $1.00**

Double, Sweet Scented Nasturtiums—Golden Gleam—Introducing for the first time a double flowered Nasturtium of fine bright golden color on long stems coming true from seed. The plants form large bushes, and when in full bloom the entire plant is a blaze of color. The pronounced fragrance is an added feature and the ease with which they can be grown will make them a favorite with every home gardener. **Packet, 35c**

Snapdragon, Indian Summer — Latest and loveliest of Schling's famous giant American Snapdragons. Marvelous not only for *size*, though its flower spikes rival the gladioli in height and vigor—but also for its *color*, a rich, velvety copper-red hitherto unknown in snapdragons and indescribably beautiful—no other snapdragon remotely approaches it—a "First Prize" winner wherever exhibited. **Packet, $1.00**

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These six packets are all seeds of our own introduction and are among our most famous specialties—Large Early Flowering Cosmos (mixed), New Giant Zinnias (mixed), Giant Single Flowering Petunias (mixed), Invincible Asters, Brilliant Mixture Poppies and Giant Waved Spencer Sweet Peas. These, like all Henderson's Seeds, are tested seeds.

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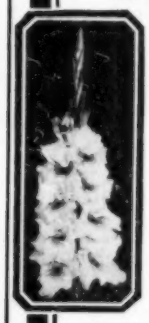

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The Garden Book, which will be ready for distribution in January, will be sent free on request to those interested in vegetable and flower seeds, roses, perennial plants, etc.

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DREER'S

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Many a beautiful garden is built in dreamland. Each spring the call of Mother Earth stirs within us the memories of long ago and we are possessed with a longing to till the soil. Why not capture that dream? There is a lasting pleasure, a solid satisfaction in the care of growing things that you will not exchange for any dream. A garden will give you a new interest in life.

A beautiful garden, like a beautiful house, must be carefully planned. These long winter evenings are ideally suited for planning and plotting. And, if you need advice or information, the Gardeners' Chronicle will help you. Its contributors are people who grow things, men and women with a practical, sound knowledge of their subject. $2 will bring you 12 issues, brimful of timely, authentic information. Single copies 25c.

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE
522-A Fifth Avenue New York City

Garden reminders

North

January is the time to go over last year's records and plan improvements. Write a list of things to be done, check off the items as they are attended to and finish every job. . . . Take cuttings of hardwood shrubs. This is a simple, effective way of increasing your stock. Use a sharp knife. Make cuttings from new wood, as it roots easily. Take cuttings from terminal pieces, place them in bundles, label them and put into boxes or flats, laid down in a bed of ashes or covered with ashes. Put in coldframe over the winter. Temperature of frame should be about 40 degrees. . . . Bring indoors Forsythia or other shrub branches. They will bloom in about three weeks if put into water. . . . Bring into the house some of the bulbs that have been rooting in pots in the cellar. They will blossom in a short time. . . . Make frames for hotbeds and coldframes. Get sash ready. Build some new flats. . . . Prune trees but wait until weather becomes a bit warmer before pruning Peaches or Raspberries. . . . Repair tools that need attention. . . . Order spray material. It is a good habit to read all the available catalogues and to decide on the nursery stock to be ordered. . . . House plants must be watered carefully. Don't let steam heat dry the atmosphere. Place pans of water on radiators to maintain moisture in the air. Lack of sunshine means that plants do not need as much water as at other times. . . . Transplant large trees with ball of earth. . . . Clear snow from evergreens, not permitting snow to weigh them down. . . . Start mushrooms. . . . Save furnace ashes to mix with heavy garden soil. . . . Start some perennial seeds indoors. Some will bloom this year. . . . Continue to keep vegetable trenches well mulched. . . . Make certain that bulb beds are mulched. Leaf mulch should be covered with branches so that heavy winds will not blow leaves away. . . . Take leaf cuttings of Coleus, Geraniums, and Lorraine Begonias. Begonia stem cuttings will root even if they merely are placed in the soil. . . . In the greenhouse Pansies, Snapdragons, etc., may be started from seed. Repot plants as they begin growth. Disbud Carnations and Roses. Take hardy perennials into the greenhouse for early spring forcing.

South

Miscellaneous—If the winter is mild, much planting may be done this month, but pruning and fertilizing should be postponed. . . . If the weather is severe, it will be safe to prune and fertilize early, but planting had best be put off. . . . Do not clean up too soon after killing frosts, as the dead leaves protect from further freezes. . . . Plan your spring garden and move shrubs, Roses, etc., if dormant, into new places. . . . Try some of the new Roses, new shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. Two-year Roses set out now should bloom in April or May. . . . Make cuttings this month of Roses, Buddleia, Hydrangea. Deutzia, Althea, Crepe-Myrtle, Cestrum, and other woody plants. . . . Lawns planted with Winter Grass should be kept mowed. If left with Bermuda sod only, clean out the weeds and fertilize with commercial fertilizers or cottonseed meal. . . . Set out shade trees, fruit trees, and Strawberries. . . .

The Flower Garden—Do not prune spring-blooming shrubs such as Deutzia, Japan Quince, Spirea, Forsythia. They flower on last summer's wood. . . . Summer-blooming shrubs, which flower on new wood—Crepe Myrtle, Althea, Oleander, etc.—may be pruned now. . . . Plant summer-blooming bulbs, such as Gladiolus, Tuberose, Ismene, Hemerocallis, Oxalis, Montbretia, Watsonia, Gloriosa, Zephyranthes. . . . Callas, Easter Lilies, Tiger Lilies, Regal, Superb, and Japan Lilies may all be planted now. . . . Plant the last of the spring-blooming bulbs, very shallow—Narcissus, Hyacinths. Tulips, Freesias, Ranunculus, Anemones. . . . Sow in the open ground, if the weather permits, California Poppies, Larkspur, Coreopsis, Sweet Alyssum, Candytuft, Stocks, and other hardy annuals. . . . In frames or boxes, sow English Daisy, Phlox, Pinks, Snapdragon, Summer Chrysanthemum, Salvia, Campanula, Columbine, Sweet Sultan, Sweet William, Heliotrope, Lobelia, Mignonette, late Sweet Peas, Hollyhock, Marigold. . . . In the greenhouse, Begonia Rex, and Tuberous Begonias, and Cyclamen. . . . Bring to the light potted bulbs that have been rooting in the dark. It is not too late to start more Narcissus in water with pebbles.

The Vegetable Garden—Sow in a frame, or in a protected spot, Beets, Carrots, Radishes, Turnips, Mustard, Spinach, Rutabaga, Lettuce, Endive, Cabbage, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, and Early Cauliflower. . . . Protect during severe cold. . . . Sow Cress, Chervil, Parsley, and Celery for cutting. . . . Sow Sweet and Medicinal Herbs. . . . In a hotbed, Egg-plants, Peppers, and Tomatoes may be sown, and Cucumbers for forcing. Plant in dirt bands. . . . Plant all varieties of Peas, and Kidney Beans. . . . Plant Onion sets, Chives, and Shallots. . . . Set out Cabbage plants; transplant Onions.

The West Coast

Plant Peonies along coast region and in Northern California. Cut back Poinsettias and make cuttings in coast regions south of Santa Barbara. . . . Complete planting Anemones, Ranunculus, Cottage Tulips, Regal, auratum and speciosum Lilies. . . . In the South plant Snapdragons, Centaureas, Marigolds, and wild flowers. Plant Malcomia, Alyssum and Gypsophila in the bulb beds. Mulch with grass or leaves to protect blossoms from rain splashing. . . . Prune Hydrangeas and Fuchsias and make cuttings. Plant Agapanthus (African Lily), also Gladiolus for succession. . . . Plant deciduous trees and shrubs while dormant, also hardy evergreens, except Heather, Japanese Quince, and Flowering Currants. . . . Replant Cannas in rich soil. Reconstruct the garden and add new features.

The American Home Employment Plan

CHECK LIST

Continued from page 235

freedom of movement for a person who cannot climb stairs. D.

59. Have wiring system checked over for compliance with insurance requirements.

60. Modernize lighting system—relocate fixtures, substitute wall brackets for chandeliers, provide new fixtures.

61. Install extra electrical outlets to eliminate long cords.

62. Install wall switches at entrances to eliminate pull cords.

63. Install new sink in kitchen or pantry. D.

64. Install an electric dishwasher. D.

65. Install pilot light on selected switches.

66. Install night lights or bed lights with switch at bedside.

67. Eliminate batteries on bell call or annunciator system by installing small power transformer.

68. Provide low voltage current in playroom for operating electric toys.

69. Modernize the laundry equipment—perhaps including new trays, washing machine, ironer, or clothes dryer. D.

70. Install laundry chute. D.

71. Remove storm windows and winter vestibules in preparation for warmer weather (in early spring).

72. Early spring exterior painting of all items not repainted in the fall.

73. Repair cracked, loose, or fallen plaster on walls or ceilings.

74. Plaster basement ceiling on metal lath for fire protection, cleanliness, and better appearance, or surface with wallboards.

75. Cover defective plaster ceilings with fabric, wallboards, or pressed metal to eliminate future repairs.

76. Install a ventilating fan in kitchen.

77. Correct defective fireplaces.

78. Install hearth and mantel for gas or electric radiant heater in bedroom or other room lacking chimney connections.

79. Install pine, oak, or other plank, or paneled walls in dining or living room.

80. Modernize obsolete interior trim and doors, replacing with new.

81. Repaint interior trim in one or more rooms, or throughout.

82. Insulate roof or attic floor to reduce heat losses in winter and to make second story or attic bedrooms cooler in summer. Also consider insulating sidewalls of house.

83. Line unfinished attic space with insulating boards or plaster to create extra room or playroom.

84. Build in new bookcases, window seats, china closets, telephone closet or cabinet, folding ironing board, children's toy cupboard, etc.

85. Dampproof basement walls on inside to prevent leaks.

86. Insulate cellar walls and cold water pipes to minimize condensation and dampness in mild weather.

87. Redecorate with paint, plastic paint, wallpaper, wall fabrics, wood veneer, or other material one or more rooms.

88. Kalsomine or whiten ceilings throughout the house.

89. Install new hot-water heater or tank.

90. Refinish hardwood or painted floors, or cover existing floors with pre-finished or block type flooring.

91. Install linoleum, rubber tile, or other modern decorative composition floors in selected rooms.

92. Install ceramic tile floors or wainscots in bathroom or kitchen.

93. Add new bathroom (by rearrangement of partitions or exterior addition, or in attic or other spare space).

94. Install shower enclosure in bathroom.

95. Install modern concealed radiation.

96. Cut up fire wood or replenish supply in cellar (local unemployment committees may have cord wood for sale prepared by unemployed).

97. Install an electric sump pump to automatically remove water from basement where subject to flooding during spring.

98. Install handrail on stairs (cellar, service, or main staircases), reconstruct cellar stairs for greater safety; install gate at head of stairs to safeguard children.

99. Recondition driveway, applying new crushed stone surface; reset brick or flagstone walks or terrace pavements where lifted by frosts.

100. Put garden tools in order for spring use—repair and sharpen lawn mowers, repaint wheel-barrows, roller handles, and clean up and oil all metal work on tools.

What the well-dressed bed is wearing

Continued from page 210

Candlewick spreads are, of course, general favorites and the wide price range in which they can be had makes it possible to obtain one which will suit any purse. The amount of work which is involved in the embroidery naturally determines the figure at which they are sold. They are equally at home with the simpler types of Early American beds or with the carved mahogany four-poster but are highly incongruous with the inlaid furniture of the Louis periods or products of sophisticated Empire influence.

A handsome spread of candlewick, made with a heavy fringe, and carried out in an allover pattern of circles is developed in white and blue on a natural ground and sells at $16.50. However, charming simple designs of candlewick may be bought for less than three dollars. The newest development in this type of work is carried out in three colors on a natural ground and has a large embroidered panel in the center, covering the top of the bed, as well as a border design. This sells for $3.69.

Other spreads which are suited to Colonial rooms are made of printed material which simulates old-time patchwork, and are quilted by machine. Coin-dotted coverlets of broadcloth with a ball fringe are quaint and colorful.

Toile is an accommodating material since it lends itself to both French and American interiors. There is a difference in the patterns, however,

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FLOWER lovers have learned by bitter experience that a garden aglow with colorful blooms can be had *only* by planting *fresh* seeds. Sutton's Seeds are always fresh. They can always be depended on to grow and produce an abundance of flowers—flowers that are true to type. Sutton's Seeds are virile, pedigreed seeds, backed by more than a hundred years of experience in breeding and selecting the better sorts by five generations of the Sutton family.

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This 200-page book lists and describes hundreds of flowers and vegetables. It is also a valuable horticultural guide. This year's issue also describes the vegetables shown by us at the recent Atlantic City Pageant which were awarded the trophy for the best exhibit in the show, special gold medal and other prizes. Sent postpaid for 35 cents. For $1 we will send you the Catalogue *and* Mr. Leonard Sutton's new book "Annuals." "Annuals" is alone worth the price. Please send International Money Order.

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DIENER'S
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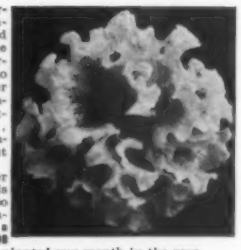

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Table Quality Vegetables

giving vitamin value and mineral content of each. Describes 2,164 different flowers; contains 200 accurate color plates: annuals, perennials, roses, lilies, water lilies, gladioli, dahlias. Special 1932 offer: Wonderful new annual Sweet William (Dianthus Sweet Wivelsfield) of brilliant colors and honey fragrance. Packet 10c. Catalog sent with seeds or alone, free.

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What the well-dressed bed is wearing

and those of classical influence are most suitable in French interiors, unless one selects a toile which is a definite representation of a French scene. Bedspreads of this material in the usual toile coloring—red, green, blue or mauve with white—made with a scalloped ruffle cost only $3.95. They are very charming on walnut beds of Louis XV or Louis XVI design, although many people have the erroneous idea that such furniture requires lace or taffeta covering.

One delightful French bedroom which we saw recently, of the provincial type although deriving from Louis XVI, had twin beds of fruitwood with square headboards and no footboard. The walls were gray and the beds were covered in a yellow toile, made with a box-pleated flounce effectively bound with a blue and red taping.

For the modernistic bedroom we have seen a modern German spread of crash-like fabric in ombre striped effect which costs only $4.95.

From modernism to Early English furniture is not such a jump as it appears since the sturdy, four-square quality of the Jacobean oaken products is a legitimate ancestor of contemporary design. However, the rich, carved finish of the earlier type, often embellished with linenfold paneling, requires a very different kind of coverlet. Jacobean crewel embroidery, worked with heavy worsteds in deep, strong colors on a neutral ground, makes a very appropriate spread. The price of these varies greatly, according to the degree of elaboration, but some very attractive spreads may be had at $17.50. Another solution for the Early English bedroom is a linen or cretonne, printed in a Jacobean design of the same pattern as the crewelwork.

If you crave a silken covering but feel that your expenditure should be modest, wonderful things are being done with rayon and celanese. A bedspread of celanese taffeta, for example, sells at $4.94. Another cover is made of rayon moiré taffeta and sells at $10.50.

Those anniversary presents

Continued from page 220

The eighth (*Bronze*)—For the eighth anniversary, bronze book-ends, of course. Thought need not stop here, however, for bronze lamps are suitable, and so are bronze desk accessories of various kinds, bronze figurines, and bronze animals for miniature zoo collections.

The ninth (*Pottery*)—Pottery presents can be such distinctive and satisfactory things these days. One need not consider lamps and vases alone, for pottery book-ends and flower pots come to the rescue.

The tenth (*Tin*)—Whoever set the significances of the various anniversaries, thought perhaps that he was being mean to make lowly tin the gift symbol for the important tenth anniversary. Having pretty tôle (decorated tin) presents to give and be given, we are more inclined to think him (or her) really rather sweet. What trays and flower holders, what lovely lamps in this decorated tin are available in every smart gift mart! If there must be more wit than merit in one's tin present, the ten-cent emporiums offer inspiration.

The fifteenth (*Crystal*)—There are beautiful gifts for remembering the fifteenth anniversary. They do not all consider the dining table, though richly etched stemware is as handsome a gift as one can give. Richness may exist in delicate floral tracery or in etched monograms. An amusing beverage set or an etched crystal picture frame might do admirably.

The twentieth (*China*)—Two decades of conjugal felicity call for a substantial gift of china. Eight or a dozen handsome plates are an especially safe selection. The smart hostess appreciates the current fashionableness of "mixing" course plates, and no matter how well stocked her china cupboard, will welcome additional variety. A set of service plates with cream soups to match is a suggestion. One may know that one's giftee has been longing for after-dinner coffee cups in a specific ware and pattern, and oblige by purchasing in accordance with the penchant. Again, one may consider a less pretentious gift more fitting: a bit of Victorian china, Dresden or Staffordshire bibelot, a pair of candy compotes.

The twenty-fifth (*Silver*)—Silver weddings! What carefully detailed and pompous celebrations they justify.—with perhaps the marriage vows of twenty-five years ago being said again in the same company of wedding guests! No paltry gifts this time!

Perhaps the guests will "give together" some one substantial token of esteem. And for a group gift, under the circumstances, what could be more delightfully fitting than a pair of silver loving cups? Charming in proportion and covered, these make more than decorative household accessories; they adapt gracefully for buffet or table service. Sheffield trays and coffee services, again in the best of usage, make excellent silver wedding gifts, which may chance to be pleasantly remindful of similar gifts received a score and five years ago.

There may, indeed, be a personal preference for pewter. In such a circumstance, why should not pewter ware be given, even though the ceremonious "twenty-fifth" calls for silver?

The fiftieth (*Gold*)—What gift, indeed, is quite good enough to befit a beaming pair's golden jubilee? Certainly not a coin, of whatever weight, but something much finer, more tactfully expressive of admiration for half a hundred years of home harmony! Something with which to set a prouder table perhaps—gold service plates, gold-banded crystal stemware, or gold candlesticks, Or a sumptuous addition to a beloved living room, in the shape of a gilt-framed mirror. A golden clock to mark many continuing years of this happy marriage's endurance!

And if one should care to present two personal gifts, besides, why not a gilded jewel box for a still frivolous little old lady—and a gold pocket knife and latch key combination for a twinkling spouse to whom home means everything?

Friendly breakfasts

Continued from page 218

January, a sprig of mint is the precise garnish for the plate. Fresh pineapple, peeled and cut in long, inch-wide slices and served with a salad fork, is appropriate.

The frozen fruits science has perfected for our tables in the last two years might well find their way into the breakfast menu. Peaches, served just when they have completed the thawing process, are delicious as a separate fruit course or over a prepared or cooked cereal.

Opinions vary endlessly on cereals, and in any company of three people there are probably three violent convictions as to which cereals are edible and which are not. Such being the case, a wise hostess will provide several avenues of procedure in cereals. Any number of prepared cereals might be at hand, and heating them in the oven to the proper crispness is no great chore. The cooked cereal is not so easy. As good a solution as any is to serve at least one hot cereal and dress it up a bit with dates, figs, or raisins for novelty.

Bread is really the keynote of the meal, and the possibilities for variety are practically endless. Hard French rolls, poppy seed rolls, little caraway seed sprinkled crescent rolls, and Danish pastry are some of the first things to be considered for people who breakfast at home regularly. Never bring any of these to the table without first giving them a trip to a moderately hot oven for a thorough warming and crisping.

Here are some recipes that will surely prove favorites in the breakfast menu.

Fig Muffins

1 cupful whole wheat flour
1 cupful white flour
¾ teaspoonful soda
⅓ cupful brown sugar
1 egg
1 cupful chopped figs
3 tablespoonfuls melted shortening
1½ cupfuls sour milk
½ teaspoonful salt

Measure the whole wheat flour into a mixing bowl. Sift together three times the white flour, soda, brown sugar, and salt and add the figs. Stir together the two flour mixtures. In another bowl beat the egg and add the sour milk. Gradually stir in the dry ingredients, and last the melted shortening. Pour into greased tins and bake fifteen minutes in a 400° F. oven. This makes fourteen muffins.

Southern Biscuits

2 cupfuls flour
3 tablespoonfuls shortening
¾ teaspoonful soda
½ teaspoonful salt
¾ cup buttermilk

Sift together the dry ingredients three times and rub the shortening into them. Add the milk, a little at a time, and mix it in thoroughly. Knead the dough until it is perfectly smooth and roll it out to a thickness of one half inch. Cut the biscuits in rounds and bake fifteen minutes in a 375° F. oven.

An old colored cook, whom we once knew, put in an extra frill by placing a slice of butter on top of each biscuit after she had cut it out. Then she folded the dough over and crimped the edges so that the butter, as it melted in the baking, would not run out. It is a trick worth trying!

Cinnamon biscuits are really very much like cinnamon rolls, except that the dough is biscuit dough instead of light bread. A baking powder biscuit is best for this.

As for waffles, the straight product made by the recipe found in any cook book is celebration enough. But if something extra must be done, we suggest a berry waffle made by the following formula:

Berry Waffles

1¼ cupfuls flour
½ teaspoonful salt
1¼ teaspoonfuls baking powder
½ tablespoonful sugar
2 eggs
¾ cupful sweet milk
2 tablespoonfuls melted shortening
¼ cupful canned raspberries drained and pressed through a sieve.

Sift together the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar. Beat the yolks of the eggs, add the milk, and stir together. Sift the dry ingredients in gradually and mix thoroughly, and then the strained raspberries. Pour in the melted shortening and mix well. Bake in well-greased waffle irons and serve with butter and a mixture of powdered sugar and cinnamon or with honey.

Coffee is a matter of course—plenty of it with rich cream. If there is on the list even one person who abstains from this beverage for health reasons, provide the de-caffeinized beverages. English tea, with cream and sugar, is hailed at breakfast by a good many Americans nowadays, and French chocolate goes with some menus. Maté, that newly introduced South American drink with a flavor not unlike smoky tea, is a third possibility. Oddly enough, there are nearly always masculine and, more rarely, feminine members of any breakfast party who prefer milk to any drink. They should be provided for generously.

The following may be suggestive in planning your winter menus.

I

Orange and Grapefruit Juice
Whole Wheat Cereal with Figs
Southern Biscuits Butter
Broiled Ham Apple Jelly
English Tea

II

Frozen Peaches
Prepared Cereal crisped
Berry Waffles Honey
Bacon Curls
Coffee

III

Honeydew Balls
Whole Wheat Grain Cereal
Kidney Lamb Chop with Bacon
Currant Muffins Butter
Chocolate

When appetites are assuaged don't rush to clear away the dishes. Talk will flow smoothly now, and the hypnotic comfort of the smouldering fire will keep the guests sitting pleasantly, smoking and chatting. The tactful hostess will sense the right moment to turn attention to other diversions.

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Feature New 1932 Catalog

HERE'S good news for those who are planning to plant this spring! The new catalog of America's Oldest and Largest Departmental Nurseries is off the press, and it contains lower prices than we have ever before been able to offer on nursery products of Storrs and Harrison quality.

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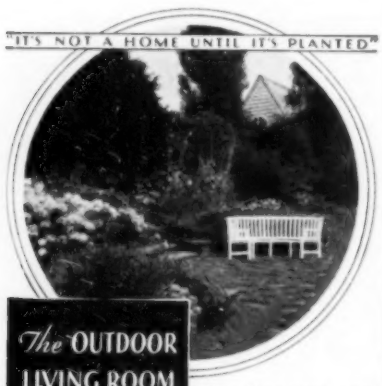

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GILLETT'S

Appreciation

The season invites looking backward and forward. The year just past brought us our share of orders from customers old and new. To these we express deep appreciation for loyal patronage. We hope to continue to serve all.

Looking ahead, we see a nursery well stocked with plants of many kinds, all of superlative quality such as will cause customers to appreciate the care exercised in growing them.

MATERIALS FOR NATURALISTIC GARDENS OUR SPECIALTY

Our nursery abounds with Rhododendrons, Kalmias, Azaleas and other woodland gems. Ferns and wild flowers, hardy Orchids and bog plants, hardy perennials of the worth-while kinds—these constitute specialties intended to help people to get more joy out of their gardens.

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Better than any previous issue, with more illustrations and additional hints about making naturalistic gardens. You will find it fascinating reading. Please write for it and mention American Home.

Gillett's Fern & Flower Farm

3 Main Street **Southwick, Mass.**

GILLETT'S Fern & Flower Farm

A twenty-five dollar annual budget garden

Continued from page 222

they had the canvas upon which they could make their garden picture-dreams come true. As no planting could be made before fall many happy hours were spent planning and replanning the place.

The front of the house was comparatively easy as little beyond the conventional planting was possible. They arbitrarily set a limit of twenty-five dollars as the amount to be expended in any one year for garden material. To accomplish their desires this meant careful planning and shrewd buying. They sent for catalogs far and wide. Many a Saturday half-holiday was spent visiting nurseries where they learned the difference between the various trees and shrubs, about how fast they grow, what sizes to plant, and how much they cost.

By early fall Bill and Mary had a very fair idea of what they wanted. Garden schemes from the magazines and books had been studied and Bill made a plan on paper of the layout they wanted to develop. He used a large sheet, making the plan large enough to visualize well. Allowing a half inch on the plan to equal a foot in the garden, the lot, sixty by one hundred forty called for a plan thirty by seventy inches. This made a working drawing upon which there was room to mark clearly the names of varieties. As they became familiar with different shrubs and trees, they decided where and what to plant, marking everything clearly on the plan.

The first thing to plant in a new yard besides the lawn is trees and shrubbery. These require time for development unless large sizes are purchased, a practice of questionable value and in this case impossible if costs were to be kept within the prescribed limits. During the first two years the annual expenditure of twenty-five dollars brought all the trees and shrubs, the Iris around the front, and a collection of perennial plants and seeds for propagating. Annual flowers from seed provided color liberally throughout the borders surrounding the rear lawn and, as each year saw them come and go, the areas became deeply cultivated and ready for the more permanent perennials that were to follow.

Bill soon recognized the advantage of propagating a large percentage of his own plants. Delphiniums that would have cost a considerable sum in plants were raised from seed as were countless other things. Of course, from seed you must take the colors "as they come." Climbing Roses were propagated from cuttings and many plants purchased in lots of three or less were propagated by division. The third year most of their garden allowance went for additional perennials with a liberal selection of good Peonies and Iris. Bulbs of various kinds were used to secure early spring color.

During the first two years the area later developed as a formal garden was planted to vegetables. This called for constant cultivation and proved excellent preparation for the planting that was to follow. The third year's planting included grass paths throughout the formal garden space. The paths were laid out and edged with wooden strips to keep them even and level. The grass paths are best maintained at a level about two inches higher than the surrounding soil surface after the grass becomes thoroughly established. These wood strips can be removed. This formal garden area might be used for various plantings such as Peonies, Dahlias, Gladiolus, Roses, or numerous other specialties. It could be developed as a cutting garden or a specialized season garden such as a planting of spring blooming flowers only.

The fourth year's development was entirely in connection with this area. The arbor for Climbing Roses, the Boxwood edging, the sundial and seat together with a start of the Rose planting was made that year as the Taylors longed for Roses. Too, they appreciated that Roses to grow successfully demanded a place in the garden to themselves. The beds were thoroughly prepared the year before, drainage provided, and annual flowers grown in them. Late fall saw the Roses planted in about half the area, and the fifth year the rest were planted. When I saw the garden the bushes were well developed and showed the result of intelligent care. Healthy foliage indicated they had been sprayed and vigorous growth meant adequate food supplies. The informal borders were great masses of color; trees and shrubs were growing vigorously and the entire picture was delightfully satisfying. It hardly seemed possible it had all been created in the short space of five years and for a cash outlay of but one hundred twenty-five dollars.

As we talked I realized that Bill Taylor's garden was the result of careful study. It had not just happened; good gardens don't grow that way. Definite knowledge and definite practices had produced definite results. I asked Bill what were the most important factors in the success of his garden. At the head of the list, he said, came the inspiration of his wife and his desire to produce the garden of her dreams. From a practical standpoint, soil preparation, the use of compost, adequate watering and cultivation were all equally important. Bill Taylor's shrubs grew vigorously because before planting them he dug holes twice as large and deep as their root spread demanded. Good soil with plenty of humus in it enabled roots to forge widely and vigorously, healthy top growth being the result. Never allowing his plants to lack for water resulted in much faster growth than would otherwise be possible.

Taylor showed me shrubs six feet tall and broad that but five years before had been planted as two to three foot specimens and rather scrawny at that because he had bought at a low price. In five years, however, they had far exceeded plants of much larger size and greater cost which his next door neighbor had planted about the same time. An important feature of his garden layout was the work space and propagating beds of ample size at the rear of the yard. The compost heap, tool shed, hotbed and lath-covered frames together with propagating beds were really the heart of the garden. It was this space that made the "wheels

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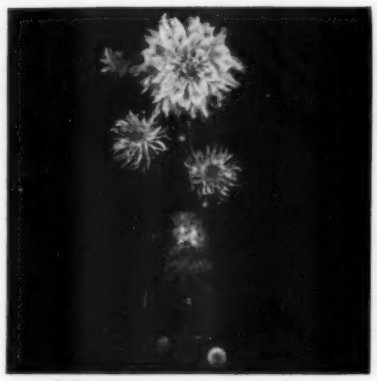

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go round." His tool shed housed an up-to-date selection of modern time saving equipment. Efficient work is only possible with good tools.

Careful study of the plans of the Taylor garden will show you to what good advantage they used their space. Shrubs and trees enclose and screen the lawn area and informal borders beautify its boundaries. Balance and proportion have been carefully worked out and, taken all together, the result is most satisfying. There is nothing elaborate about the garden but to me it seemed very complete. I remarked that the layout seemed entirely complete and left nothing lacking. Taylor, however, did not see it that way. Intimate study of the garden's possibilities left him with many unfulfilled schemes. He longed for better and rarer perennials, for new varieties of Roses and other things. All unintentionally Bill Taylor was on the right track to a lasting garden enthusiasm. Never should one be satisfied with a garden, never should one's garden be considered entirely complete.

KEY TO PLANTING PLAN ON PAGE 222

Shrubs

1. Japanese Barberry (Berberis thunbergi)
2. Coralberry (Symphoricarpos vulgaris)
3. Early Spirea (Spiraea prunifolia)
4. Dwarf Mockorange (Philadelphus hybrids)
5. Snowberry (Symphoricarpos racemosus)
6. Bridal Wreath (Spiraea vanhouttei)
7. Bearded Iris, mixed
8. Silver Kerria (Kerria japonica argenteo-variegata)
9. Persian Lilac (Syringa persica)
10. Hybrid Mockorange (Philadelphus virginalis)
11. Pink Flowering Almond (Prunus glandulosa rosea)
12. Verna Witch-hazel (Hamamelis vernalis)
13. Lemoines Deutzia (Deutzia lemoinei)
14. Goldenbell (Forsythia intermedia spectabilis)
15. Common Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)
16. Japan Quince (Chaenomeles japonica)
17. Beautybush (Kolkwitzia amabilis)
18. Snowhill Hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens grandiflora)
19. Pink Weigela (Weigela rosea)
20. Amur Privet (Ligustrum amurense)
21. Slender Deutzia (Deutzia gracilis)

Trees

A. Moline Elm (Ulmus americana columnaris)
B. Sweet Gum (Liquidambar styraciflua)
C. Siberian Elm (Ulmus pumila)
D. Pink Dogwood (Cornus florida rubra)
E. Boll's Poplar (Populus bolleana)
F. Mountain Ash (Sorbus aucuparia)

Your garden club

Continued from page 227

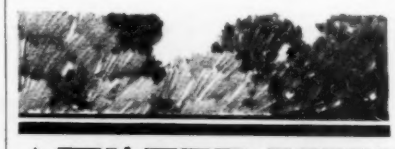
The women of the Long Island Clubs of New York State, did a splendid bit of missionary work at the Dogwood season last spring, by interesting the traffic officers in the importance of its preservation. They gave Dogwood blossoms to the officers all along the main highways, so that they would recognize it as a "protected" flower, when found in the car of the so-called "nature lovers."

This particular year, every garden club will have an opportun ty to plant a single tree on a highway, in memory of the Father of our Country, a fitting tribute to a great man.

The garden club is always extending the scope of its activities, until it seems as though it is daunted at nothing. There is a Tea House on Long Island, sponsored by three garden clubs, which is doing a thriving business. A garden club is always in need of funds, with which to carry on its beautification program. Four garden clubs in Rockland County, joined their forces last June, and held a mammoth flower show in a riding academy, in the geographical center of the county. This proved a huge success as an experiment in coöperation, and netted a substantial sum, to be used in improving county highways. It is astonishing to see how quickly interest will be awakened, when a real "job" is set before a club.

Since the appearance of the famous *Herball* of John Gerard, in 1597, many books, in many languages, have been written on the subject of botany and gardening in its various phases. It is only within the last year, however, that anything has been published, that can serve as a practical guide to the garden club. Several books, with that service in view, have appeared almost simultaneously. The one with which the writer is familiar is Mrs. Fisher's *Garden Club Manual*, which is a veritable encyclopedia of valuable information. It contains Model Constitutions, Programs for Club Meetings, Flower Show Rules and Schedules, in fact, everything that a garden club should know and do. No club will go far astray, that follows Mrs. Fisher's Manual. Another aid to the garden club, is the State Federation, formed in many states, for the purpose of helping young garden clubs, that are a bit doubtful as to methods of procedure. These state federations are the clearing houses for all garden club problems, and will supply, upon application, helpful literature of all sorts, telling how to plan and plant one's own garden, or a village or state highway as the case may be.

If a struggling garden club happens to be born in a state which has no federation of its garden clubs, it may apply for information to the National Council of State Garden Club Federations, which stretches out a friendly hand to every garden club, from the Atlantic seaboard, to the Pacific slope, and stands ready to do all in its power to smooth the roughest of garden club paths. It will "keep going," from this day forward, and its slogan might well be, the motto which the little girl wrote in her copy-book, "Hope on hop ever."



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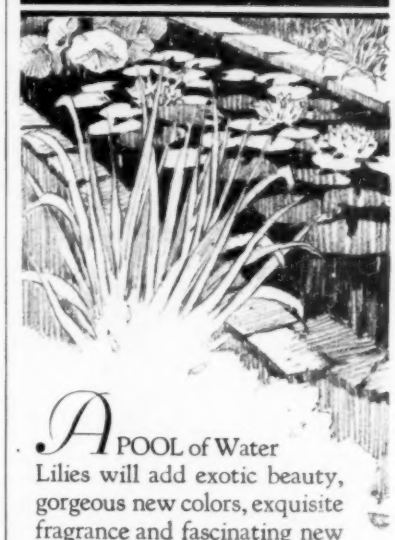

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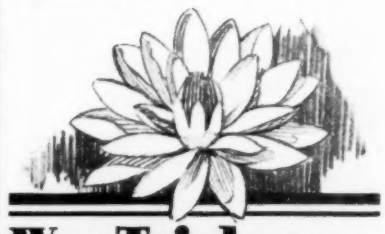

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◈

THE AMERICAN HOME

Illusion of summer in winter

Continued from page 224

gardens that are not so carefully kept there are blackened plants which need trimming back. But something seems missing—something that the visitor had expected to find isn't there.

"Isn't this the season when the Hibiscus and the Poinsettias bloom?" he asks.

The practiced host changes the subject if possible, but otherwise is forced to reply:

"The freeze killed them all back. We had a most unusual cold spell in December, the first time in thirty-five years that we've had weather like it."

And he is truthful. The winter of 1929-1930 was the worst that the New Orleans area has known for many years. It was the first time that many grown men and women had ever seen sleet, the first time in years that ice stayed on the ground. Most freezes in thirty degree latitude are snap affairs, cold for a few hours, and nothing but the tropical growth and the small, tender plants injured. That winter saw what a real freeze will do to the Lower South.

Yet the people who came a few weeks later saw gardens which had no trace of a freeze. They saw the dark green of flowering shrubs, the springlike green of winter grass, and if they missed Poinsettias, they found Camellias.

It is the prodigal use of shrubs and evergreen vines which makes the Southern gardens. The very profuseness makes them different—masses of Ligustrum, clumps of Bamboo, walks bordered with Azaleas, corners filled with Camellias. These shrubs can all stand quite a bit of cold, and it is because of them that we can keep up the legend of perpetual summer. The Camellias in middle Louisiana were covered with snow and sleet for three days before Christmas, 1929, right when they were blooming their loveliest whites and shell-pinks, deep pinks and reds. As soon as the icicles dropped off, their stiff, serrated leaves were as green as ever, and while the open blossoms were killed, in a week they were blooming again, with flowers small and somewhat blighted, but back to normal in two weeks. It is plants like that which make the Southern garden a perpetual thing.

Of course strangers are amazed to see New Orleans gardens often decked in strange and startling fashions—the plants on the lawn of a lovely home dressed in queer, out-moded clothes, hastily snatched from an upstairs trunk; Poinsettias dressed in moth-eaten evening capes; Hibiscus clad in shrunken sweater suits; Roses covered with the too-narrow skirts of yesteryear, and the window boxes wrapped tightly with newspapers. But it does little good; the ones that are protected enough to survive seem to have been smothered out of their winter's growth. The practiced gardener prefers to put his trust in flowering shrubs which are evergreen, and to pass up the annuals and perennials.

The winter grass does a big part in preserving the picture. When the ice melts, it is as springlike as ever, and with the green of Ligustrum and Pittosporum, the scarlet leaves of the Nandina domesticata, and the bright berries of the Holly and the Yaupon, few flowers are needed. The Narcissus which a freeze seems to spur into bloom are just extra bits for the garden—and all florists have Marigolds and Calendulas and Pansies ready to bloom a week after they are put in the ground. The Azaleas which grace the gardens of the larger homes are really bits of bravado flaunted at winter. The real Azaleas which have grown in the ground for years do not bloom until late February.

After each freeze the blighted shrubs are trimmed back. If this upper, injured portion is removed, new growth will come from the living part. This cutting back is done before the sap starts up, so the first warm day after a freeze is the best time. This trimming back is not only the proper thing for the plant, it is decidedly the thing for the appearance of the garden. Poinsettias go at the first freeze. The Hibiscus are sometimes killed, often badly blighted, so that for the last few years a number of gardeners have advocated treating it as an annual, and cutting it back each December. If they are cut to within a foot or six inches of the ground, and the earth mounded around the roots, the plants are safe for the winter. They will not put out until late February, when danger of a freeze is past, and if they are fertilized at that time they will soon shoot up and bloom.

The Scarlet or Fish Geraniums, once so popular in Louisiana, Florida, and along the Mississippi Coast, have fallen into disfavor, for a bad freeze kills them. There is nothing brighter than a fence banked with these abundantly blooming Geraniums, nothing barer than the same fence after a freeze. The Geraniums are so easily grown from cuttings that they will always be satisfactory for spots of color, but we rarely see masses of them against foundations of houses, or along whole sides of fences, as they were planted ten years ago. The same is true of the red and of the pink Begonias.

The Lower South grows almost anything—for a while. But for the amateur gardener who wants guaranteed results, tropical and exotic plants offer too many difficulties. The Bougainvillea, so lovely in South Florida, never does particularly well in Jacksonville or in the New Orleans area. It grows in protected corners, but always before it reaches the luxuriant growth which gives it most of its beauty, it is killed back or stunted. Bignonia, especially the purple kind, stands the coldest winters without losing a single waxy green leaf, and is much more satisfactory than the temperamental Bougainvillea. The Lady Banksia Rose and the Confederate Jasmine are both evergreen vines, and particularly suited to the overlapping climate of latitude 30.

For that is what the New Orleans-Jacksonville section has—a climate which is semi-tropical, in spots, and cold in others. If we must not plant Bougainvilleas and Poincianas in our everyday gardens on account of the cold, we must omit Peonies and Lilacs because there isn't enough cold. But there are many substitutes: Azaleas provide the most gorgeous late winter, early spring color. And

Illusion of summer in winter

Crepemyrtles and Oleanders bloom through late spring and summer as do Cape Jasmines and Pomegranates and Japan Quince. Color is never wanting; our chief concern is a garden whose background will last through the winter.

We delight in the smaller annuals, and the exotic shrubs which prove our Southern climate. But they must not be the backbone of the garden. What we really need is plenty of Camellias and yellow drooping Jasmine, of Laurel and Magnolia fuscata and Aspidistras. These and others equally hardy must furnish our chief winter foliage and bloom. They form the perfect background for the Pansies and Sweet Alyssum and Snapdragons which we can replace and put in the ground on the first warm day.

Sweet Olive, Abelia, Japanese Paperplant, Japan Plum and Louis Philippe Roses withstand our freezes, and other Roses will bloom again in a short time. Our personal belief is that after a freeze is the time to prune Roses rather heavily, and we also believe in a stiff dose of fertilizer. A freeze usually stops the Roses from blooming for two months. Of course some people disagree; they say that if we prune and fertilize then, the new growth may be killed by another freeze. But that will not happen more than once in a lifetime.

The white Honeysuckle stands any amount of cold, but the red is often injured. Winter is our show-time; our visitors must see our gardens at their best. Reine Marie Henriette Roses bloom nearly all the year, and have a nice foliage. The Lady Banksia Roses bloom in January and February, and are especially recommended on that account, as well as for their attractive vines. The Confederate Jasmine, which blooms in white, waxlike flowers in March and April, is slow growing but its very dark green foliage is able to stand any freeze in the Lower South. Ficus repens, the best clinging vine for stucco or brick houses, will lose its leaves after a severe freeze, but will soon put out again.

With evergreen vines for the most conspicuous climbers, we can have blooming vines for most of the year. The yellow Jasmine blooms by late January. Lantana may be planted with Roses, and if watched and weeded out, will never choke them. Wisteria and Lady Banksia Roses will grow well together, though the Wisteria must be trimmed back. Wisteria is especially desirable on the tall Palm trees. Purple bignonia is also planted on the Palms and, as it is evergreen, many people prefer it to all others. Cadena de Amour and Lantana are beautiful together, and so are the big blue Morning Glories and Cadena de Amour.

Once the evergreen background is planted to stay, spring gardens, fall gardens, and winter gardens are easy. Winter slides into spring, and Azaleas, drooping Lantana, Roses, bridal wreath, Iris, Violets, Verbenas, Wisteria, Weigela, Mockorange, and Bush-honeysuckle bloom. The fruit trees and the Easter Lilies, the Pomegranate, the Coral tree, and the Parkinsonia bring spring to the garden, and all the annuals bloom.

Seasons overlap: Oleanders, Crepemyrtles, Buddleias, Hibiscus, Althea, Plumbago, Tamarisk, Gladiolus start blooming in the spring and continue through the summer; many through the fall. Cosmos reseed themselves, as do a number of other flowers. The fall Zinnias are much smaller than their summer predecessors; the fall Cosmos of bright yellow, several times the size of their summer parents. Shasta Daisies, Rain Lilies, Amaryllis—there's always a wealth of flowers in the Southern garden, if we can just tide over the freezes.

Almost anything is possible if evergreens form the garden background.

Christmas plants

Continued from page 223

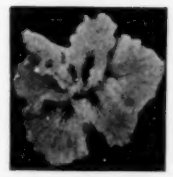
in this way to grow a number of vigorous, thrifty new plants for the coming holiday season. Take cuttings from the tips of the young, growing shoots, all fruit and the lower portion of the foliage being removed; insert in clean sand, and treat exactly the same way as the Poinsettia cuttings. After the cuttings have taken root transplant to smaller pots, a good mixture of sand and loam being used. When all danger of frost is over the young plants may be moved out of doors. They may be transplanted directly to the garden and grown in rows during the summer months or they may be shifted on to larger pots. If planted out in the garden they must be given plenty of space in order that they may develop into nicely shaped, symmetrical little bushes. The rows should be at least eighteen inches apart and the plants twelve inches apart in the row. During the summer they should be kept well cultivated and they need an abundant supply of moisture in order to make their maximum growth.

By early autumn you should have large, vigorous plants, already coming into flower and beginning to set fruit; they must be brought indoors before frost. If they have been kept in pots during the summer this is a simple matter. If, however, they have been grown in the open transplanting must be done with care, the ground being well soaked the evening before the plants are to be lifted and the roots disturbed as little as possible during the process of potting. When first brought indoors place the pots in a shady corner and in addition to the usual watering, the foliage should be syringed once a day. At the end of a week, when the plants have recovered from the shock of being moved, the pots may be placed in a sunny window. If placed in direct sunlight when first transplanted they are apt to wilt very badly and begin to drop their leaves. By Thanksgiving time the fruit should begin to show color and for the festive Christmas season the plants should be gay.

It is also quite easy to raise plants from seed sown indoors in very early spring, the seedlings being put outdoors in summertime, and otherwise handled like the cutting plants.

Pre-selection

—you should know about it



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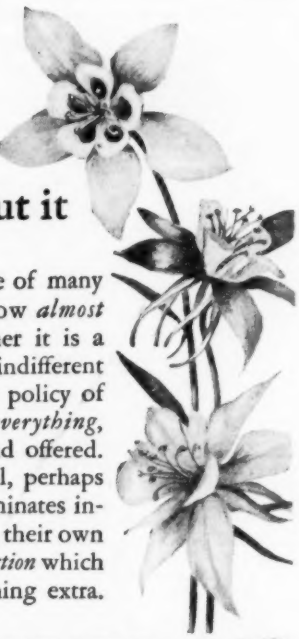

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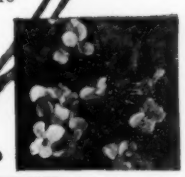

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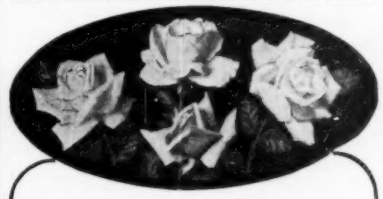

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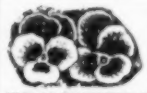

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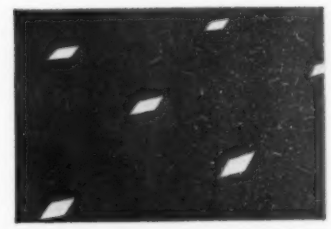

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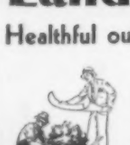

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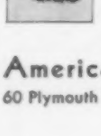

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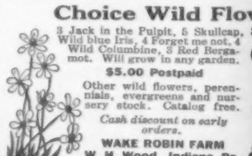

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